

AIR INDIA: 'HEADS SHOULD ROLL, NAMES SHOULD BE NAMED, AND ACTION TAKEN.' P.14

MACLEAN'S

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE | www.macleans.ca

MARCH 28 2005

JE\$US

**HOW A GREAT CANADIAN MUSEUM BOUGHT INTO
THE ANTIQUITIES 'FRAUD OF THE CENTURY'**

BY JONATHON GATEHOUSE

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DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES Two Hollywood stars devour pacy roles as renegade moms.

"Bottom line: the shooter hated police. He would have been just as much of a threat to the RCMP constables if he had been running a daycare centre," —William Chigg, Vancouver, B.C.

Making sense of tragedy

Now the clamour arises, the shelling of responsibilities, the strident calls for action, new laws, stricter controls, and better training ("It's not to blame"). Cover, March 14) How about we stop trying to reinvent the wheel? This is how we came to mourn four good RCMP constables a man with a history of violent crimes is sent a strong message by a weak justice system. Criminals exploit weakness. Across Canada, we need to demand accountability. We need a fix in the velvet glove we call justice.

Kath Copeland, Vancouver, B.C.

The attempt to deconstruct the martyrdom culture by politicizing the actions of a desecrated, dangerous individual is more than pathetic. It shows complete disregard for the untimely deaths of four human beings. Official reaction was predictable police called for harsher penalties, telling the federal government to "wake up" and recognize the connection between gun use, violence and organized crime. Want our police officers left to understand is that their proposed solution—increasing harsher laws—is a proven failure in the U.S. and will only lead to an escalation in the violence.

Chris Gervais, Hamilton

I agree with Susan Fraser University criminology professor Neil Boyd, whom you interviewed in your story when he said, "I'm not at all clear that that case has as much to do with gun law as it does with a person whose own father describes him as evil."

Sandra Ang, Coquitlam, B.C.

It was not just the gun, stupid? I am more disgusted with the federal Liberals and their attempt to use this tragedy for political gain. Perhaps they are simply trying to divert our attention from their 40 thought-out gun legislation, which does not keep potential gun owners off the street.

Don Sathia-Rao, Milwaukee, Wis.

What about those constables were part of an organization that serves its constituents



THEIR DEATHS WERE senseless and heartbreaking. But should they spur a drug crackdown?

throughout Canada with dedication and heart. Policing is a challenge. In this time of grief, I suggest communities across Canada stand with their law-enforcement personnel. That will go a long way toward healing the pain.

Len McMillan, Surrey, B.C.

I am amazed that these four young men were even sent into that potentially dangerous scene with what was known about the man who lived there. Who is taking responsibility?

Jerre Jensen, London, Ont.

Your article crosses a red line officer asking, "If you legislate pot, then what did those officers give their life for?" Well, it wasn't the pot. It was a dumb truck. It was for some financial institution that just had to extend credit to the town mafia. When a couldn't collect, an apparently had the right to send in the RCMP.

S.L. Siskat, Langley, B.C.

Teaching the best and brightest In the March 7 issue, there were three articles about different facets of education (Nae Feigenson's "Looking for Mr. Chips," about the lack of male public-school teachers; "White dogs, grey bottoms," an over to Vancouver school uniforms; and "Rising with one eye," Paul Wells' column on

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realizing higher education). These are, taken together, signs that there is a cohesive long-term education plan for the country's next generation. We also know who are willing to cut any program that directly supports the best and brightest. What we have accomplished is the creation of public schools that achieve the absolute lowest common denominator.

Riad Haddad, Toronto, O.C.

A man of influence

It was interesting to read Clio Prakash's story on Nadhav Das Malapat, the man you say is behind the restoration of ties between India and Israel ("The middleman," India, March 14). I was under the impression that relations between India and Israel were renewed on a clandestine note sometime in the early 1990s when Israel began to provide counter-terrorism training to Indian security forces. As for Indian Americans, I thought their lobbying organizations, fashioned after Jewish outfits, began blossoming thanks to people like Washington lobbyist Ralph Naderberger, who helped found the India Abroad Committee Political Awareness in 1994. The interest that geo-political consultants Ravi Rajiv Associates had taken in pushing for closer U.S.-India-Israel ties pre-dates any influence Indian Americans have wielded.

Shail Anand, Vancouver editor, India Mirror, San Francisco, Calif.

Saving the best for first

The answer to Paul Wells' dilemma of not finishing books is easy ("Stuck on the same page," The Black Pig, March 14). Read the end first. Then you get the adventure of seeing how well the author wires up to the ending. And if you do abandon the book, you already know what happens.

Leslie Stokolsky, Toronto

I can reduce complexity to your serial book-unfinishing inquiry: 1) Was one, too, but I am now in recovery. 2) Here are three points that might help: 1) Re-read until you separate the books you have read from the books that are partially read. Place the unfinished books at eye level on the wall unit. 2) Commit to reading at least one unfinished book a week. 3) For the love of God, do not buy any more books until you have finished the unfinished ones.

John Dutilleul, Toronto



A reader takes exception to the portrayal of Das Malapat as a power player behind the scenes.

Great column by Paul Wells in the March 14 issue. How did it end?

Doop Wilford, Cleveland, Ohio

Turn up the music

It was fantastic to read about Halifax reader Joel Pliskin in the Feb. 28 issue ("From Halifax to Phoenix and he's got the songs to show for it," Back Talk). He is one of the most talented musicians in Canada, and it is beyond me why we're lucky enough to see him playing smaller clubs. As a songwriter, he makes feelings and opens them into something both clever and substantial. He is one of a kind.

Armande Zorin, Saint John's, Nfld.

Seasons of our discontent

In the March 14 issue, you quote a Canadian Institute for Jewish Information research article concerning the number of people who slip on ice and end up in the emergency room, a fact which leads you to conclude,

"It adds to the notion this winter is a dangerous season and should be avoided when possible." What are you suggesting? That we all sit in our homes for six months of the year? The fact that we continue to live here and, for the most part, survive suggests that with a little common sense,

we can go about our day even in winter. By the way, when you consider heat stroke, autism, UTIs, leish, song writings, allergy alerts, and numerous accidents, nowhere here isn't exactly a patch either.

Adam Green, Ottawa

The tax man cometh

I thank Revenue Minister John McCallum's attempt to justify having former employees of IDS Uniphore in Victoria pay thousands of dollars in income they never received in ahead ("Victoria's tax nightmare," All the News, March 14). McCallum says that "what is critical is that each and every taxpayer know that he or she will be treated exactly the same as every other taxpayer." In other words, love—regardless of how unjust or absurd they may be—must be applied. A law uncorrected by justice is no law at all.

Rhonda Bentley, Victoria

Your winter choice is a double benefit: it not that ensure the employee makes when, in fact, it is actually the employer taking (legal) advantage of some benefit unavailable to non-employees. In fact, one, the benefit was the below-market-value stock purchase, not the unaccounted profit the employees were planning to reap. That is what fair and equitable comes to. Every employee in Canada who buys stock in this manner is taxed the same way regardless of the eventual profit or loss the stock realizes. The fact that thousands prior were caught and no money was made on the deal is immaterial.

Adam Green, Burnaby, B.C.

MACLEAN'S BEHIND THE SCENES



Photo by David H. Smith for Maclean's

CHRONICLING THE WILL TO SURVIVE

The struggle of rural Canadians to stay on the land—and the sea—is the theme of the Legacy project, a partnership involving Maclean's and CBC Television.

Last fall, the CBC created a competition involving three of the country's finest documentary still photographers—Benoit Aquin, Nancy Ackerman and David Tittle. Each spent a week creating a photo essay about the challenges of life in rural Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and British Columbia and the spirit of those determined to remain there.

CBC crews filmed the process, along with the subsequent judging by photographers Stephen Bulger, Lesley Sparks and Maclean's Director of Photography Andrew Tolson (second from left). The result was an hour-long documentary which will be nationally televised on the CBC at 8 p.m. on July 1. The photos will also be part of the 8th annual CBC photography festival, which opens May 1 in Toronto.

"Images of struggling rural Canadians rarely appear in mainstream publications, which makes these photos particularly valuable," says Tolson. "Like all good documentary photos, they draw in the viewer and provoke an emotional response."

Tolson notes that the project dovetails nicely with Maclean's longstanding commitment to documentary photography, adding that Benoit Aquin is a regular contributor to the magazine.

Andy Beag of CBC TV's Winnipeg current affairs unit produced the documentary. He says that despite the difficulties facing rural Canadians, the story is ultimately a hopeful one.

"These are ordinary people who are making an extraordinary effort to hang on to their rural way of life. In most cases, they're largely succeeding in dealing with their challenges and figuring out how to restructure their communities and their lives."

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GENDER PRICING

Revised Ontario MPP Louise Goggin directs against a huge price differential between men's and women's haircuts, dry cleaners, etc. Wants to make overcharging women a human rights violation. Populists in parliament has a few loose ends, but who doesn't want more bangs for the buck?



KATKIN

Murphy popular politician for the last decade joins Goggin's fight on tobacco. Goggin on tobacco: don't need it, for suggesting Christ had said "Some mysteries belong to divine. Like why Christ wants to add to God's sales."



FREE PRESS

Used to make independent voices talking on powers that are now masters of subvert Toronto Star and (Conservative) National Post partner to protect consumer freedom for big cities. Any wonder they have to give it away?



STARLINGS

Profit-loving birds. Latest cross-border migrant, U.S. berry growers want them trapped and sold, not sold, U.S. orchards can't be sure their (local) birds with local names. Tissue confirms red state stolen Canada for the birds.



Showdown | The McCartney sisters versus the IRA

The White House isn't really paler for presidentialism. And on St. Patrick's Day, finally, it was the McCartney's turn. The five brave women from Belfast were guests of honor at George W. Bush's gathering, along with Rudolph Hagan, fiancé of their brother, Robert, who was paired with a knife by IRA, years outside a pub in January. With a six-week-long campaign to break a conspiracy of silence and bring their brother's killer to justice, the sisters have already named the case-late police of Northern Ireland on its ear. It wasn't left on anyone that they were in the White House while Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Féin, the IRA's political wing, and a regular invitee, was pointedly not.

Adams says he supports the family—good

From left, Hagan with Doran, Paula, Claire, Gemma and Catherine McCartney, the snubbed Adams



republican Catholics—and blames the lack of witnesses coming forward as local politics. But even as he spoke, it was reported that at least two Sinn Féin candidates were among the 70 at the pub that night. As Catherine McCartney said, "Everybody knows who killed my brother and who ordered it. But they're all starting about the plane like they own it."

The IRA seems to be hoping to tough out this FBI chapter. But Britain has cut political funding to Sinn Féin MPs over the incident, and the U.S. has also cracked down on Sinn Féin fundraising there. The room may not be righting on Robert McCartney's killers. But the groups implicated are surely facing the pitch.

Quote of the week | "The story as told in *The Odyssey* doesn't hold water."

Author **MARGARET ATWOOD** on her obsession to rewrite Homer



BEFORE



AFTER

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WORLD

IRAQ Newly elected parliamentarians held their first formal sitting, but factional squabbling delayed the selection of a president and prime minister. Meanwhile, cracks appeared in the security coalition. Iranian Prime Minister Mohsen Rezaei, wary because of a wave of recent anti-U.S. sentiment at home, said he would like to withdraw his 7,000 troops from Iraq, beginning as early as September. Three other U.S. partners—Poland, Ukraine and the Netherlands—are struggling out their military roles far from what was planned.

DARFUR The UN sharply increased its estimate of those killed by violence, malnutrition and disease in the troubled Darfur region of Sudan. It put the new number at closer to 180,000 dead over nearly two years, about three times previous estimates.

AL-QAEDA Pakistani security forces came close to capturing in covert operations Osama bin Laden 10 months ago, but the trail has since gone cold. Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf claimed.

PHILIPPINES Philippine authorities briefed for weeks on by Muslim extremists after a bomb crackdown by police put down a Qaeda uprising and left 22 al-Qaida rebels dead.

WORLD BANK Washington reinstated deputy director secretary Paul Wolfowitz, one of the key architects of the Iraq war, to be the new head of the World Bank. European leaders were reportedly dismayed at the choice of Wolfowitz, a Bush hard-liner, whose nomination follows the selection of fellow hawk John Bolton to be U.S. ambassador to the UN. But historically, Washington chooses the head of the World Bank, while the Europeans pick the loaner in their agency, the International Monetary Fund.

AMERICAN JUSTICE A California judge sentenced Scott Peterson, 32, to die by lethal injection for killing his pregnant wife, Laci, on Christmas Eve, 2002. Prosecutors said the crime was a bid to regain his bachelor's freedom. In another high-profile case, a Los Angeles judge acquitted tough-guy actor Robert Blake, 71, of killing his wife six months in 2001. The slaying outside a restaurant spawned a plot from his old *Baretta* series.



DRUGS As the price of oil hit record highs in excess of US\$57 a barrel, the U.S. Senate

voted to allow drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a sanctuary that during the Northwest Territories that the Canadian government has long wanted protected. The refuge plays a key role in the migration of the giant Porcupine caribou herd. The provision now goes before the U.S. House of Representatives, which has the plan to let the push for drilling in the Arctic.

HACKING London police say they have thwarted one of the world's biggest electronic bank heists, an attempt to hack into the British branch of the Japanese bank Sanwa. Money and transfer over US\$423 million. An Israeli man has been arrested.

CHINA At 43, Garry Kasparov is hanging up the chess clock. The man who beat virtually all comers—they include an IBM supercomputer in a historic match—announced he's giving up pro chess for politics and will try to defeat Russian President Vladimir Putin. Kasparov considers him a despot.

Meanwhile, still languishing in a Japanese jail, even on his deathbed, Fischer may yet escape deportation to his native U.S., where he has been charged with violating international sanctions against Yugoslavia in 1992. Iceland wants to offer him sanctuary and full citizenship.



ONE STEP FORWARD

In a rare case of unity, all 12 Palestinian military and political groups, a multi-sect coalition, agreed to end the current "cease-fire" between them. The move came as Israel's control over control of Jerusalem's Palestinian neighborhoods, the first of a planned withdrawal of Israeli forces from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. But as this city by this al-Aqsa mosque's request is a base for the camp, the withdrawal was not willing to go. In their own case, in Israel and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas have demanded.

HEALTH | SCIENCE

CANCER TREATMENT British scientists say they have discovered a new technique for treating skin and possibly other cancers: a genetic switch that tracks cancer cells into a permanent coma. A breakthrough idea, it's still years from effective use.

VITAMIN E Large doses of the antioxidant vitamin E cause no harm—non lower—the risk of heart attack in diabetics or those over 55, a new U.S. study says. The latest research to question the use of the popular vitamin, at least when taken in standard 400 IU daily doses, also found vitamin E supplements play no role in lowering cancer rates.

CANADA

PLOT Three New Brunswick teens, all in their 10s, were arrested and charged with possession of explosives in connection with an alleged plot to take over a Saint John, N.B., high school and methodically murder certain teachers and students. The three, aged 15 to 17, had reportedly practiced making pipe bombs and were overheard discussing the plot by fellow students.

SUSHI FUNDS Almost \$300,000 of the roughly \$50 million in annual sponsorship money was set aside for special contingencies. These often turned out to be events on the railways of former prime minister Jean Chrétien and



SPIN THIS He fell twice, and, critics say, he is no good. Still, Canadian champion Jeffrey Kirby, 32, had enough in his tank to win silver at the world figure skating championships in Moscow.

former public works minister Allan Rock, the Gomery commission was told.

At the same time, the inquiry heard that Montreal ad firm Groupaction Marketing, set up by a former public relations executive, set up a subsidiary to funnel about \$500,000 to the federal Liberal Party and certain of its organizers.

BY SUSAN DENAR



AIR FARES Jetair founder Michel LeBlanc apologized to customers and former employees for shutting down the discount airline in the middle of the night. But he maintained secrecy was normal noised down at airline companies. With Jetair's demise, the average cost of plane travel in Canada jumped significantly, analysts reported.

HAND COW It took two weeks to decide, but U.S. agriculture officials are upholding the injunction, issued by a federal judge in Montana, to keep the border closed to Canadian cattle under 30 months of age. The border was to have reopened for U.S. ranchers, shot it, at least until fall hearings, now set for July 27, can be held on Canada's duty to deal with its mad cow outbreak.

ANTI-SEMITISM Anti-Jewish incidents in Canada rose last year, a watchdog group from Toronto finds. A small part of that, at least, can be attributed to anti-Jewish sentiment. Bowing from the popular Bill Gibson film *The Passion of the Christ*. Only 13 of the 157 incidents documented resulted in charges being laid.

SENTENCING A Toronto woman who hacked off her neighbor's hands with a machete two years ago, as the machete left the victim was responsible for authorities removing her children, was given 10 years in prison. Middle-aged woman had her hands surgically reattached but does not have full use of them.

SMALL BILLS Canadian lawmakers continued down-market last year, focusing on legislation \$100 and \$100 in the apparent hope that retailers wouldn't bother to look too closely. The number of bogus bills on circulation shot up 25 per cent, while the value went up only slightly to \$1.1 billion, the Bank of Canada reported.

MARIO More fuel for the distinct society Quebecers can continue to use of the only group in the world forced to enjoy white margarine. The Supreme Court of Canada rejected a plea from a manufacturer to allow the province's dairy industry—pursuing its campaign from being coloured yellow. So it can't be made as white as butter.

Mary Janigan | ON THE ISSUES



DIAGNOSIS: CRITICAL

Our health-care delivery system is ailing, but there is a prescription that might work

IN THE END, it is the patients and their families who will cause health care delivery to reformed—despite lingering resistance within the medical establishment. Hospitals have become too dangerous for casual use: the thing should be able to heal them whenever possible. And because today's medicine can alleviate the damage of strokes or heart attacks if patients are treated in time, emergency wards should not be crisscrossed with cold coffins. For these two reasons alone, Canadians have a huge incentive to support emboldened politicians scrambling to find the money and the strength for change.

The anecdotal and scientific evidence is striking. While hospitals have always been busy, today's institutions are wrestling with a global world of new bugs. The nature of the problem is breathtaking. In the past six months, two of my friends have contracted infections while undergoing tests in Toronto hospitals. (One still requires a caesarean.) Another friend's godchild, the victim of a severe auto accident, picked up an infection in an Ottawa institution. Despite the chattering lessons of SARS, despite scrupulous precautions, invading institutional microbes abound.

The results in perspective of best the

“Primary care teams could handle less severe problems outside of hospitals, and leave emergency wards for real emergencies.”

Meanwhile, the patients who truly need fast access slip through the system. There is a disturbing study funded by the Heart and Stroke Foundation and Ottawa's Canadian Institutes of Health Research. As researchers gently reported last month: “Overall, less than 50 per cent of patients met the door-to-needle target [for clot-busting drugs] of less than 30 minutes.” Although there were many reasons for delays, you can imagine some poor soul clauding his chest, lost in a queue of cold victims.

They consider a recent report for the Canadian Stroke Network registry, where “significant” variations in care among 21 sites. In the halcyon days, there was little hospitals could do for stroke victims anyway—except wait and then do it all. Now, especially if treatment is administered within three hours, dangerous dots can be dissolved with drugs or mechanical devices. But only one-third of registry patients received “any form of organized inpatient stroke care.” The report speculates that “in-hospital delays” could be one of the reasons for the holding in receiving critical drugs.

As a result, it is not just bean-counters who talk reform. Many savvy provincial health ministers are probing for the creation of primary care teams with doctors and nurse practitioners that could handle less severe problems outside of hospitals. That would leave emergency wards for real emergencies. These ministers also want many routine surgeries shifted to clinics, mostly because electronic patient records, meticulously ruled ambulatory personnel and local health boards that could ensure hospitals specialize instead of offering all services.

Such changes are tough and costly and often disruptive. But Canadians are on the cusp of better care: it's up to us to vehemently support those who could bring it. ■

Mary Janigan is a political and policy writer. maryjanigan@rogers.com

Passages

CONVICTED His was a storied career, from cofounder and model shareholder to much-admired CEO of science giant WorldCom Inc., a bellmouth he put together with deft entrepreneurial skill. Edmonston-born Bernie Ebbers, 63, was found guilty of participating in WorldCom's US\$11 billion security fraud and now could face years in jail. The jury didn't buy his story that he knew nothing about corporate finance.

RUNNING

Carole Taylor, 59, former TV journalist and Vancouver city councillor, quit her day job as chair of the CBC's board of directors. She will run for Premier Gordon Campbell's Liberals in the May 17 B.C. election.

RECOVERING Former prime minister Jean Chrétien, 66, was convalescing in a Montreal hospital after surgery to remove a benign lesion on his lung.

RECOVERING Pope John Paul II was back at the Vatican after two weeks in a Rome hospital with flu-related symptoms. The 94-year-old Pontiff still had a rabbinic list of things to help ease his breathing when necessary.

DIED He could name phrases, spoken and written, in ways his peers could only admire. Veterans journalist Bill Cameron was a Maclean's writer in the early 1970s when TV landed him away far from life and his integrity. Best remembered as an anchor, reporter and documentary producer at CBC's *The Journal*, Cameron, 62, died in Toronto after a battle with cancer of the esophagus.

QUIT An emotional Jeff Wilton, 37, the Quebec City shock jock whose controversial comments sparked a regulatory investigation, a huge outcry in Parliament Hill last year and, most recently, a defamation suit, quit in the middle of his morning radio show.



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KNOW HOW



IT CAN'T END HERE

Human decency and the national interest demand an inquiry into the Air-India tragedy, argues **KEN MACQUEEN**

"IN THE EARLY morning hours of June 23, 1985, two Boeing 747s sat on the tarmac at Heathrow airport," began B.C. Supreme Court Justice Ian Bruce Josephson, reading a verdict that set two men free and left hundreds more shocked to a 20-year-old tragedy that now seems beyond hope of resolution. At the end of an hour-long summation of his judgment—delivered in a stern, but resistant room from behind bulletproof windows—

the packed Vancouver courtroom was seething. Incredulous murmurs of relief and despair. Then, with the collapse of the prosecution's case, came angry calls for a public inquiry to deliver, if not justice, at least accountability for what many touched by the tragedy consider a botched investigation

into a preventable act of terrorism.

Just one row of seats separated families of the 331 people killed in those two explosions from relatives and supporters of the two men prosecutors had labelled mass murderers. Ajay Singh Bagri, 55, a Kamloops mill worker and fiery union, and Rajinder Singh

Malk, 58, an unbridling Sikh fundamentalist, whose wrath and influence touched the national, spiritual and business affairs of thousands of Sikhs throughout B.C.'s Lower Mainland. After Josephson said the RCMP and the prosecution's case fell "markedly short" of proof beyond a reasonable doubt, supporters of Malk and Bagri responded to focus guilty verdicts with scripted chants, bows and gestures. In the arena behind came grief from the other side: "Bulha," muttered one person. Nirbhaya Madan of North Vancouver, just five when

her father, San, was murdered, fell sobbing into the arms of her mother, Pooja Madan. Ramesh Singh Kalia of London, Ont., losing one son, pulled out a picture of his 20-year-old daughter, Indira, a stunning beauty killed when Air-India Flight 182 slammed into the Atlantic off the Irish coast. "This is my loss," he said, hardly containing his anger. "In God's court, a higher court above this court, they will be punished one day."

The verdict—reached after a two-decade, \$300-million RCMP investigation, and almost 580 days of court time—free'd Bagri and Malk

Malk (above, center) celebrated as victims' families demanded a reckoning.

after more than four years in jail. It resolved little else. The judge concluded only that the two bombs—detonated in four spots, one over the Atlantic, the other at Tokyo's Narita airport—were loaded on Air-India flights in Vancouver as part of a conspiracy of revenge against the Indian government. The plot, the judge said, was plotted "in furtherance of its basic and most intimate level."

Beyond that, the trial produced only ques-

tions: If not Malk and Bagri, who can the conspiracy? Was it a plot, indifference or neglect that led to such a flawed investigation? Should the case—as frail, damaged and incomplete as the parts of the mosaic and jigsaw the prosecution assembled in a secret warehouse—have even gone to trial? Above all, what happens now? Is there value to a public inquiry after 20 years? Are there lessons to be learned that would justify the expense and the pain of reopening the past? There is much to suggest that there are. Asking the reasons for an inquiry

THE FAMILIES

Quite simply, many of the relatives of those who died aboard Flight 332 were one. They regrouped within hours of the verdict, filed their suits, and, in a poignant meeting with the media, demanded an inquiry. One by one they stood before a microphone and publicly spoke on behalf of their loved ones, many broke down describing the enormity of their loss.

Sushil Gupta, an Ottawa lawyer, 32 when his mother was killed, read a prepared statement on behalf of an association of victims' families. The crisis manager is the result of a systemic failure every bit as profound as the Westray mine disaster, the stained blood scandal or the Walter's water crisis, all topics of public inquiry or royal commissions, he said. He tried to state that need further investigation, why surveillance on suspects was suspended just days before the tragedy, why unaccompanied baggage was processed, screening systems weren't functioning and oversight was almost broken down between the Canadian Security Intelligence Service and the RCMP. Handshakes at CSIS's wingtips recorded in the months surrounding the tragedy were ended before they could reach the RCMP—as again that has never been adequately explained. "Most of the failures of the system were not even touched in the criminal trial," Gupta said. An inquiry, he added, may be the only way to prevent a recurrence of past mistakes.

There is much to mull: loss of a kind of great Canadian nation that has plagued this tragedy from the beginning and profoundly wounded many Indo-Canadians to the immediate aftermath of the crash, then prime minister Jean Chrétien called Indian prime minister to offer condolences, although the huge tragedy of passengers on

that plane were Canadian citizens. "Had children a tragedy that affected thousands, white, Anglo-Saxon Canadians," said Late Pasha, a Toronto dancer who lost her husband, Vishnu, and two daughters, Arind and Arati. "I think the response would have been very different." And now, after the summer of Sept. 11, 2001 in the U.S., new anti-terrorism laws were rushed through Parliament.

GOVERNMENT INACTION

Liberal Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan was quick—too quick—to reject an inquiry. She said, with minutes of the judgment, there was nothing new to be learned and little chance of a trial's court—unwilling conclusion for someone yet to read the ruling. Backtracking later, she offered a lame compromise: She'd meet with the families, along with representatives of CSIS and the RCMP, to explain all that has changed

in the past 20 years. That strategy would have saved any number of governments and bureaucrats from a world of trouble. The people of Westminster, Ont., could have cheered over two hours how their water system was as good as a man. And Paul Martin could have avoided the grief of the Gossamer Inquiry with a national funeral that could have the Quebec government would be the catalyst of a past government. Lesson learned. No hard feelings.

There were perfectly reasonable reasons for not investigating the circumstances of the worst terrorist attack in Canadian history: the need not to interfere with the police investigation, the need to wait until lawsuits were sorted, the need to let the courts finish its deliberations. Similar circumstances applied in the U.S. after the 9/11 attacks, but an independent commission has already investigated the disaster and its report is a national scandal. In Canada, the families don't say that it's too late for an inquiry. "Enough of the stifling job," says Sam Madani's widow, Perwa, "just give it to us, for God's sake."

INTELLIGENCE LAPSES

The decision by CSIS to omit a report of key suspects from the period before and after the bombing is a failure in the context. Among the evidence wiped out are calls from Alexander Singh Parmar, considered the likely mastermind of the plot, with from the two men just captured, Malik and Bagra, and interviews with a key witness. A subsequent CSIS review of the actions found the omission was intended to protect personal privacy and confidentiality of sources—a finding so reasonable it was only farthest side of a larger cover-up or conspiracy.

An troubling, security agencies all but ignored the view of a CSIS military growing in Canada, the use of Sikh samples to recruit and finance extremists, and the surprise discovery of a document in a residence Bagra's informant told him the coverage of \$10,000 Hindu, delivered before a security guard as New York's Madison Square Garden, above the railroad passengers in the months before the bombing.

LESSONS UNLEARNED

If extremists in under control, why was it necessary to build a \$7.2 million bombproof container for the trial?

If security and policing agencies have

A TWO-DECADE MURDER FILE

JUNE 6, 1984: Indian forces attack the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holiest Sikh site, claiming it's being used by militants. Sikhs say 30,000 people are killed in attacks that kill 3,000 extremists were revenge.

MARCH 5, 1985: CSIS obtains a warrant for a videotape of a militant sect that hopes to establish an independent Sikh homeland.

JUNE 4, 1985: CSIS follows Parmar and an associate,inderjit Singh Bagra, to a hotel in Vancouver where they are in a hotel room, but CSIS does not interview the men about it.

ready, perhaps paralyzed by an 1984 killing on his list, never it shot to death in 1988.

OCT. 14, 2000: Parmar dies in India. Police say he was killed in a gunfight, but subsequent reports suggest he died in custody.

JAN. 26, 2000: A former CSIS agent says he destroyed taped interviews with Anshu Malik and others.

OCT. 27, 2000: Charges are laid against Sikh cleric Aksh Singh Bagra and Vancouver politician Karamjit Singh Malik for 331 counts of first degree murder, attempted murder of the witnesses and crew aboard

Flight 302, and conspiracy.

JUNE 6, 2001: Seven men charged in last against Bagra in release to the bombings, including murder, an attempted murder, an conspiracy.

FEB. 13, 2003: Bagra is unexpectedly killed in a car crash, in a case of no manslaughter and being held one of the Air India bombs.

Other charges are filed, and he is sentenced to the national five years.

APRIL 25, 2003: The trial of Malik and Bagra begins in a specially constructed, \$7.2 million, high-security courtroom.

DEC. 3, 2004: Presentation of evidence and arguments ends. The trial for the investigation and trial more than \$10 million.

MARCH 16, 2005: Saying the witnesses weren't credible, Justice Ian Binnie acquits one of the British Columbia Supreme Court finds Malik and Bagra guilty in all counts.

SAHIL MABLEY

WHY DOES CSIS DESTROY ITS WIRETAP TAPES?

TWO DECADES after the Canadian Security Intelligence Service ended wiretap recordings that might have been key evidence in the Air India case, CSIS's standard procedure is still to destroy what it calls "intercepted" conversations. CSIS has only a tiny sampling of reports from electronic wiretapping—that gets rid of tapes of conversations with 30 days. Why not save the raw data that might some day help police or prosecutors? "We don't collect evidence," CSIS spokesman Sarban Corman told Mailchimp. "The goal of the service is not to bring people to court. Our goal is to advise the government of threats to the security of Canada, and ultimately to neutralize those threats."

That adherence to CSIS's mandate as a civilian security agency—not a law enforcement agency—sometimes makes its relationship with police hard to grasp. Experts generally agree that, while years since the 1985 Air India bombing, CSIS and the RCMP have learned to work much more closely together. Corman says CSIS now immediately points out to police any information it gathers that might be useful in criminal investigations. But when it comes to wiretaps, he says CSIS policy remains essentially the same as in the mid-1980s, when it would hundreds of hours of tape involving Alexander Singh Parmar, the suspected mastermind of the Air India bomb-



Parmar, the bombmaker targeted mastermind

ing later killed in custody by Indian police. The loss of these tapes is one of the most controversial aspects of the investigation that led to last week's acquittal of two men. But 35 years from then that same information collected today wouldn't be lost. The Canadian Security Intelligence Service. All directs CSIS to gather and retain information on threats to Canada's security only as "strictly necessary"—a limitation meant

to protect the civil liberties and privacy of Canadians. "The act doesn't tell us to destroy [wiretap] tapes or transcripts within 30 days," Corman says. "But the way we've interpreted it, the strictly necessary provision, and the way our minister has signed with our interpretations, and the way past ministers have decided us to interpret it, is to destroy the raw data after the final report is made."

That destruction of CSIS's operating policy surprised Wesley York, a security intelligence expert at the University of Toronto's Munk Centre for International Studies. "It's clear what they're doing, there's something obviously seriously wrong," York said. "This is a critical issue."

Corman said that in rare circumstances, a senior CSIS official might agree to request from police for a particular wiretap recording not to be destroyed. "It's definitely an exception," he said. "It's certainly not the norm that we retain anything." And she stressed that CSIS would not take this material along to police only under strict conditions—that the understanding that police would use the information in their own investigations, with no evidence at trial. "Say we share information with the RCMP," she said. "We would ask them not to disseminate it further without our permission. And further dissemination would certainly erode use in court."

JOHN GIBSON



JUNE 22, 1985: At 30,25 GMT, a narrowboat is hit by a bomb. Flight 332 explodes in Tokyo's Narita airport, killing two Indian residents. Less than an hour later, another bomb goes off on Air India Flight 332, sending the aircraft down off the coast of Ireland and killing all 327 people on board. Both bombs originate from Vancouver.

NOV. 8, 1985: Parmar and Bagra are arrested and charged with weapons offenses and conspiracy related to the Air India bombings. The charges against Parmar are dropped. Bagra receives a \$2,000 fine.

MAY 30, 1990: Bagra, arrested in Britain and extradited to Canada in December 1989, is convicted of manslaughter and later sentenced to 18 years in the death of the flight attendants.

JUNE 24, 1991: The Singh Bagra, leader of the Sikh Canadian forces, says the identities of those involved in the bombings are well known in Vancouver's Sikh community. Air



MR. DITHERS GOES TO CRAWFORD

Paul Martin may hope for photo ops when he meets George W. Bush, but where's his foreign policy agenda?

IF THERE'S ONE POLICY area in which Paul Martin longs to appear before his fellow Canadians, it's foreign affairs. In an interview with *Maclean's* last year, the Prime Minister said he planned to take charge on key domestic concerns, such as health or daycare, only when needed. But on international issues, he declared, "I'll always be fully involved." Maybe that doesn't seem such a good thing. After he let Defence Minister Bill Graham and other senior officials publicly tout the benefits of joining the U.S. missile shield program, Martin's decision to opt out, with a terse explanation why, looked stupid and prolonged delay in finishing a sweeping international policy review suggested government can't decide what big ideas to pursue. Even his decision to split Foreign Affairs and International Trade into two departments has turned into a fiasco—voted down by the opposition parties in the House and widely derided as ill-conceived from the onset.

So Martin isn't easily riding tall in the saddle as he rides into Texas this week for a get-together with George W. Bush and Mexico's President Vicente Fox. Yet the meetings, including highly symbolic ones like the U.S. President's march on Crawford, could be Martin's chance to start turning things around. The foreign good, if he can explain the opening. The announcement of the bilateral summit came just after Martin and Canada wouldn't participate in ballistic missile defence—a clear signal that Bush wasn't so unified that he intended to impose an extended chill on the relationship, as he did after Jean Chrétien refused to take part in the Iraq war. And the topics up for discussion in Texas, especially border issues, play to Canadian strong suits: since Sept. 11, while the U.S. and Washington have worried itself on tightening border security and strengthening missile—a source of goodwill in an otherwise strained period.

Still, given his recent record, Martin has an enormous task ahead. Canada's highly skeptical community of foreign policy wonks is ready to pounce at the slightest sign of



Graham was sidetracked after publicly touting the benefits of the missile defence program.



As public security minister, McLaughlin can point to some promising developments in the Canada-U.S. relationship.



another misstep. At least three clear public conflicting versions of the conventional wisdom that Ottawa, even before 9/11, had grown more when it comes positioning Canada on the world stage. One group, led by Andrew Cohen's 2003 *Windsor White Canada* report, sees the ambitious diplomacy of the two decades after the Second World War. A second, made popular by Brian Mulroney's unilaterally pro-U.S. stance, urges a return to what anyone is his trade-based realism. And a third includes the foreign lobby's *Ascent* strategy, disappointed when he was Chrétien's foreign minister—the so-called realist security approach that led to Canada's support for the treaty banning land mines and the creation of the International Criminal Court.

With critics taking aim from so many angles, Martin is bound to draw fire from some even if he does get his act together. He hasn't done himself any favours by raising expectations and then dithering them. He vowed to bring up legislation in U.S. relations then played the missile shield like a dummy. He struck anticipation for the ambitious policy review—only to postpone it so long that even one loyal insider calls the exercise "deeply disconcerting." And while these big betrays create an aura of inactivity, Martin also



no sign of being able to capitalize on more promising developments. Not only that, particularly in managing the American relationship. Worried that Canada is in danger of being dropped out by a security-obsessed U.S. just last week, Public Safety Minister Anne McLellan and U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announced a major joint counterterrorism exercise, along with Britain. Afraid the Iraq war spelled the end of Canada's special status with the U.S.? The fact is that Canadians were uniquely exempted from the new American policy of fingerprinting and photographing foreign visitors.

Perhaps even more significant is the \$12-billion, five-year boost for Defence announced in last month's federal budget. Paul Cohen, the U.S. ambassador whose term ended last week, heaped praise on the military spending hike. And Cohen, who didn't hesitate to look out at the Liberal government over its missile shield decision, was hardly known for every diplomatic fantasy. Not only are the Canadian Forces getting an injection of cash that's bound to be welcomed by the Pentagon, they also have a new chief of defence staff who promises an international image makeover. Lt.-Gen. Rick Hillier now in place means that Canada gets credit from allies,



Gellucci blasted us for opting out of missile defence, but then heaped praise on the decision to give the Canadian Forces more money.



New chief of defence staff Hillier says he wants to give the Canadian Forces an international image makeover.

including the U.S., when it deploys troops abroad—credit he feels was lacking during past missions, such as Canada's major contribution in the former Yugoslavia. "We can do better," Hillier says. "We can have a high profile and an influential seat at the table."

But the unenviable task of trying to put together a coherent strategy for the future of defence is not so simple. There are, though, several signs of a new strategy. Earlier this month, David Fransen, assistant deputy minister for policy in Industry Canada, issued a plan for the government to come up with a coherent strategy for exploring China's rise as an economic power-house. At a Public Policy Forum seminar, Fransen flagged declining market share for Canadian exports to China, and Canada's shrinking share of Chinese investment. A key role of Martin's big policy review—whatever it finally appears to have promise and persuasive it is on China. The Prime Minister has made plenty of noise about recognizing the importance of change in Asia, but hasn't offered any bold new approach.

Nothing so big as the challenge China poses as on the agenda for Martin. Given his recent record, though, Martin would surely welcome a strategy appearing competent and pragmatic. The scope of the discussion will be limited by the fact that Canada and Mexico have such different relationships with the U.S., making any agreement that works for all three countries a tricky sell. Still, a few subjects could produce language of the sort that makes for useful photo ops on the march. One strong possibility is a deal in co-operation planning for the feared global influenza pandemic.

For Martin, though, what's crucial is showing off a decent working rapport with Bush before the cameras. A chorus of critics will be waiting for any hint of failure. At least Martin no longer has the problem of having to meet high expectations. With a defence foreign affairs record to date, he now faces the humbler task of rebuilding his national credibility on the very fact that may matter to him most.

BED THE ELEPHANT

We need much closer integration with the United States—before it's too late

FOR MORE THAN 70 years, Canadians have profited from a close and mutually beneficial economic and security relationship with the United States, so the point that we assume it will never end. To make such an assumption is a grave mistake. In present global circumstances, nothing can be taken for granted.

Canada has much to learn from the European experience. The new 25 members of the European Union have worked amicably to create the kind of beneficial interdependence that serves as a shield of nations. They have done this by writing rules and building institutions to underwrite that great project and provide their citizens with the confidence that it will continue. Co-operation, shared experience and acceptance of common rules have become the basis of both European sovereignty and unity.

Canada and America, on the other hand, have shed away from rules and institutions. For many years, we relied on a "special" relationship, shrouded for Americans being receptive to Canadian requests for special treatment. That disposition was endorsed by U.S. strategic considerations in a world that disappeared with the collapse of the Berlin Wall and with the destruction of the World Trade Center.

The 1999 Free Trade Agreement placed the economic dimension of our relations on a more secure footing, but still brought home the extent to which we have only made a beginning. The near closure of the border fleet, and growing opposition, show that we have not yet redefined our relationship with this neighbor. The rules and institutions we have in place are inadequate to the challenges created by our mutual dependence, by new competitors, and by tightening new external threats. Canada and the U.S. must both face the two most engaged economies in the world, but our integration rests on tenuous and less legal foundations.

Rightly or wrongly, the U.S. no longer regards its northern border benignly. It is a nation grown anxious about wheat and wheat



terrorism may strike next, the border now looms as a point of vulnerability rather than a source of strength, a perception reinforced by the Martin government's decision not to participate in the ballistic missile defence initiative. Such a perception cannot be allowed to continue. It undermines the very basis of Canada's security and prosperity: cross-border trade interdependence. Our courage, U.S. innocence and entrepreneurship propel our own, the U.S. military provides a blanket of security, U.S. intelligence is critical to our own, U.S. popular culture dominates because Canadians choose it, and U.S. warm weather causes millions of Canadians each winter. The U.S. presence pervades every aspect of Canadian life because we welcome it, we benefit from it, and we want it to continue. Canadians can justly

take pride in their distinctiveness, but there is no other country with which we are so closely aligned in our core values respect for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

A future that relies on anything other than mutual confidence in each other is too bleak to contemplate. Who would support imposing barriers to the 300,000 people and 37,000 trucks that cross the border every day, or delaying the new bridge at Windsor that the President and the Prime Minister discussed last December, or refusing pre-clearance at Canadian airports? Who can afford the required military expenditures? Let the obstacles to the true movement of goods, services and people across our border be removed entirely since 9/11 and are continuing to grow. We are witnessing the "Missouriization" of what used to be the

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more open border in the world. Compared to the intra-European borders, a thicker of new obstacles has been imposed.

The point comes home quickly if we devote just a few minutes to thinking about the next possible terrorist outrage. As the 9/11 commission in the United States has pointed out, it is not a question of whether, but when. It could be a dirty bomb in a sports stadium. It could be a truck bomb destroying the CN Tower in Toronto. Or it could

be rain in the water supply, Los Angeles. Whenever the serious strike next in North America, our vulnerability will be made clear within minutes. The border will close. This time, it may not be reopened as quickly as it was after 9/11. The next outrage will bring fear and de-militarization to new levels. And the first instance will be to close the wagon.

Such scenarios tend to be dismissed by many Canadians as scare tactics. That too is a mistake. We must really assess the risks as well as the benefits of our current ambiguous geographic proximity. The choice is as stark as it is clear. When the wagon creaks, do Canadians want to be on the outside looking in or the

other way around? To ask the question is to answer. The implications for our economic security will be feared those for the U.S.

The first task that faces us is to restore the belief in American hearts and minds that Canada is a reliable partner. That is how most Canadians want to be seen, and it is how most Americans want to feel. Drift and neglect in our relationship have diminished the trust and confidence we need to take for granted on both sides of the border. The government's decision to opt out of reliable defence has not helped. We know that the U.S. remains ready to work with us. The President has made this clear. We should respond quickly and forcefully and undo the damage of the past decade of willful neglect.

We must restore trust by addressing our common security needs and by strengthening our common North American security perimeter, as the trilateral task force established by former deputy prime minister Julia Marley recommended last winter. Within that perimeter, people should be able to move freely, but on both sides of the 49th parallel there is work to be done, and

it is best done jointly and co-operatively rather than singly and at possible cross purposes. A long history of working together, from NORAD and NATO to the Smart Border accord, has created strong foundations, but far more needs to be done to confront the growing obstacles we now face, some of our own making, and some the result of a changing strategic context. The February budget made a start at modernizing and re-evaluating the Canadian Forces, but to re-

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gain our ability to participate fully in the defence and security of Canada and North America, much more is required.

We should also adopt a vision of a common North American commonspace, something the trilateral task force themselves also recommended. Both countries now have an enormous stake in each other's welfare. Five specific issues demand urgent attention, completing the free trade project by eliminating border tariffs entirely and adopting a common external tariff; reducing the continued impact of the border in segregating the two markets by dismantling some of the tasks performed at the border and moving others away from it; accelerating the impact of regulatory differences in conducting

cross-border trade and investment, abolishing the various trade remedies (anti-dumping and countervailing duties) that scar our economic relationship, and replacing them with a single international competition policy and rules about subsidy practices; and addressing the absence of modern institutions to reduce conflict and provide for flexible governance of the integrated North American market. All measures arise from the success of free trade and the resulting increased pace of cross-border integration. As in Europe, all require a response grounded in the rule of law, and backed up by adequate institutional capacity.

George W. Bush is not the usual Canadian need to get on with life and recognize the absolute necessity, in our own self-interest, of building a modern security relationship and of securing access to the market that drives our prosperity. To do otherwise is foolish and reckless.

Over the past three years, there has been a silent debate in Canada on the details of what we need to do. There is no shortage of good ideas, but adopting a bold, realistic and holistic approach to reach

time with our giant neighbour to the south requires a government prepared to exercise leadership. Not one the agenda be adopted piecemeal. Thanks to the role of special interests in Washington, nothing will be accomplished by attempting incrementalism. The U.S. political system has never worked that way, and never will.

Mr. Bush's invitation to Paul Martin and Mexican President Vicente Fox to meet with him to discuss the future of North America provides a golden opportunity to make clear that Canada wants to work with the United States to build a sense of mutual confidence and a community of fate. We must articulate and pursue our broad political goals. We call on our political leaders to commit Canada to a course that will secure our future. If they allow the relationship to continue to drift, Canadians could judge them history's enemies.

After Goldsch was Canada's ambassador to the U.S. from 1981 to 1989, Aronson was a professor at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management, and worked last year in the James Dooley chair in trade policy at Carleton University.



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Cover

AN OSSUARY SUPPOSEDLY LINKED TO JESUS WAS A WINDFALL FOR A CANADIAN MUSEUM. NOW ISRAEL HAS DECLARED IT A FAKE AND JAILED ITS PROMOTER, AND THE MUSEUM HAS SOME EXPLAINING TO DO.

BY JONATHAN GATEHOUSE

THE MAN ACCUSED of standing at the centre of the greatest forgery ring of our time, perhaps all time, doesn't appear to be holding up so well. In books and movies, criminal masterminds—the label Israeli police are freely applying to Oded Golan—are effeminately suave, or carefully brutal, confident to the extreme. In real life, this 54-year-old antiquities collector seems at bridle as the *Tel Aviv Times* and *Haaretz* figurines that fill the display cases in his otherwise modest Tel Aviv apartment. On the white message board in his kitchen, a female friend has left a long list of life instructions: "Go to bed on time. Try to get 8 hours of sleep. Don't be nervous. Drive carefully, do up your seatbelt. Don't eat too much chocolate or cheese. You should smile at least 15 times a day." Everything will be fine, it concludes.

Golan, a single man with cauliflower ears and a dark brown Mr. Spock-style toupee, doesn't seem to be taking the message to heart. The room smells of sweat—his boss at his desk all day, poring over binders filled with the evidence against him, looking for loopholes and contradictions. Now, against the fervent wishes of his latest lawyer, he's talking to yet another journalist. It's more of a dramatic performance: an elliptical, four-hour soliloquy about the eponymy of the forgers arrayed against him—the Israeli Antiquities Authority (IAA), the police, some of the world's top experts in archaeology and ancient inscriptions. It's only when the talk turns to the objects that surround him—the 2,500-year-old clay animals, the mold of a temple from the 10th century BCE, the ossuaries—that he seems to come back down to Earth. "Almost all of us collect something—people just don't recognize it. They collect shares, or houses, or money," he says, trying to explain the compulsion. "I have seen so many fascinating pieces over the past 30 years. I believe this is the most fascinating hobby in the world."

The problem for Oded Golan is the allegation that many of the pieces he handled over the past decades got a lot more noteworthy—and valuable—after he and his friends were finished embellishing them. On Oct. 31, 2002, his James ossuary, a stone box without inscriptions suggesting it once contained the remains of Jesus's brother, was unveiled in the media. It became the centerpiece of a blockbuster exhibition at Toronto's Royal Ontario Museum that ran from Nov. 15 of that year to Jan. 5, 2003. Soon after, Golan

was untrained as the man behind artifacts to sell to Israel's national museum in enshrined tablet—the Jewish stone—that appeared to offer archaeological proof of the existence of Solomon's temple. Those pieces, along with dozens of others, are cited as forgeries in the lengthy indictment delivered by Israeli authorities last December. (Also on the list, although none of the defendants are specifically tied to it, is an inscribed parchment carved from a hippo's tooth that was long touted as the sole authentic relic of the First Temple, and which remains part of the Israel Museum's collection.)

conspiracy that churned out and marketed fake or enhanced Biblical artifacts for at least the past two decades. Many ended up in the hands of wealthy collectors or government institutions. Police say the fraud artists made millions.

When the case goes to trial, perhaps as early as this spring, the prosecution may call as many as 124 witnesses, and enter hundreds of exhibits—used antiquaries, tools, blueprints, documents, surveillance tapes—that it claims will prove the existence of a concerted effort to change history. Last week, Golan was being held by police,

Israeli authorities allege that the James ossuary is one of dozens of Biblical artifacts that the forgery ring faked or enhanced over at least two decades



Golan and his co-defendant failed to plead innocent, saying they are victims of a witch hunt

"Golan played with our beliefs," says Sgt. Jonathan Pagan, head of the Jerusalem fraud squad, who led the investigation. "The beliefs of Jews and Christians. This is why it's the fraud of the century."

Authorities allege that Golan and his co-defendants—Robert Deutsch, a Tel Aviv antiquities expert and trader; Raffi Brown, the former chief conservator at the Israel Museum; and dealers Shlomo Cohen and Pappi Al-Amich, along with some as yet unnamed conspirators—formed a loose

coalition with objectives for amassing so many items with his own case, authorities were seeking a court order to keep him jailed until the end of his trial. On the original charges, he and his co-accused have said they will plead innocent, and denying any victims of bad science and a witch hunt by overzealous bureaucrats who want to end the legal but highly controversial trade in the Holy Land's archaeological heritage. The debate that has raged in scholarly circles about the authenticity of the James

ossuary will spill into the public spotlight. If Golan and the others were to be found guilty, it would expose some of the biggest ruses in archaeology as being false, perhaps greatly, or possibly, worse. Reputation will suffer. And the Royal Ontario Museum's looks to be at the head of the line.

IT WAS NOT an auspicious beginning. When workers in the building dock unloaded the floor of the Brooks truck on the morning of Oct. 31, 2002, Dan Raham, then the ROM's director of collections, blushed. The priceless James ossuary, transported on

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the world's first pages only 30 days before the first biblical conference of the existence of Jesus Christ, was packed in a cardboard box like a discount store toaster oven. The normal protocol for shipping an antiquity is to put it in a lead-lined wood or metal crate, placed inside yet another sturdy foam-lined crate. "I looked at it and said 'Oh, fuck!'" Robert recalls. "I mean, it was so fragile."

The next day, in a special climate-controlled room, employees cut away the cardboard. Inside were several layers of bubble wrap. The large cracks that crisscrossed the precariously intact stone box were visible

anyway and other items he was keeping in a warehouse. Lemaire wanted to see the mummy, and when he did, he declared it an ancient mummy, even dating it to 63 CE, right around the time Jesus the Jew, Jesus the brother, is said to have been killed after being thrown from the roof of Jerusalem's Second Temple. Lemaire passed the news on to Heriberto Shanks, founder and editor of *Biblical Archaeology Review*, a popular history magazine based in Washington. Shanks was excited, and agreed to publish an article by Lemaire in the fall edition of his magazine as a world exclusive.

oiding conferences (including a meeting of his Biblical Archaeology Society) that would bring 9,000 scholars and interested amateurs to Toronto. It took less than two weeks to hammer out the deal. Shanks was excited, says Reil, threatening to reveal the ossuary at the Smithsonian or New York's Metropolitan Museum unless the ROM agreed to his terms. "There was something of a fire-sale element," the curator says.

The whole affair came together with unprecedented haste—most major ROM exhibits take two years to plan. But the Jesus ossuary was a godsend for a struggling

The ROM exhibit came together with unprecedented haste. "There was something of a fire-sale element," says one curator of the deal the museum made.



through the plaster. The biggest were right through the Aramaic inscription, *Yeshu bar Joseph, brother of Jesus*. The ossuary was, says Reilman, shipped in such an "extremely unprofessional" manner that "it was almost guaranteed to break."

The bad news did have a silver lining, though, bringing even more media and public attention to the extraordinary find. A ROM conservator recommended emergency repairs. Lloyd's of London, which had insured the piece for US\$1 million, and Cohen agreed. It was announced that the box would go on public display on Nov. 15, as previously envisioned.

The ossuary had once to public notice with dazzling speed—and limited scientific scrutiny. In late May, Cohen awarded a dinner party at the Tel Aviv home of Shalom Moussavi, reputed to be the world's biggest collector of biblical antiquities. André Lemaire, a specialist in Semitic writing at the Sorbonne in Paris, was there. Cohen asked him to connect his apartment to display the inscription, and a few days later, Lemaire did. Cohen showed him photos of the James

In mid-September, Shanks arranged for two researchers at the Geological Survey of Israel to authenticate the inscription. They examined the box's patina—the natural corrosion build-up upon objects over time. After a single day of tests, they said it was consistent with 2,000-year-old stone and didn't appear to contain any modern materials. Shanks showed photographs of the inscription to two other well-respected specialists in ancient script and the Aramaic language. Both gave a provisional thumbs-up. Shanks sold the find rights to Shmuel Jacobovitch, an award-winning documentary filmmaker from Toronto. He struck a book deal with HarperCollins. Then, on Oct. 10, he called the Royal Ontario Museum.

"I thought it was a crank," says Ed Reil, then head of the ROM's Department of Near Eastern and Asian Civilizations and now career minister. A fire museum's conservation department contacted him. He sent an email to William Threlkeld, the museum's director and CEO, signed "Jesus Christ." The exhibition concept was approved within a few days. Shanks declined to add November opening date to his press kit on three con-

ditions (the ROM's funding from the Ontario government—half of its operating budget—has been frozen since 1995; it now has 110 fewer staff than it did at the beginning of the '90s; and the last time it mounted a big, prestige-building touring show from its collection was 1992). The museum's attempts at due diligence were rapidly completed. Reilman made some discreet inquiries to Israeli colleagues about the ossuary. No one had heard any hint of the box before it was unveiled to the press.

Museum officials asked for Cohen's permission for further tests, stipulating that if they could not demonstrate authenticity the exhibit would be cancelled. Although repairing the box was the first priority, the museum did conduct some examinations and decided the ossuary was authentic. The ROM made one other demand before agreeing to the exhibition: an export permit from the IAA. It arrived soon after. "Our assumption was that the IAA would be the agency that said it's inauthentic," he recalls. "It didn't. The agency had no idea of its importance."

But even before the exhibit opened, there were suggestions that everything might



Shankel (opposite) stands by the ROM's discovery; the ossuary was packaged like a toaster oven.

not be kosher. Cohen began giving interviews, and his story seemed to vary. The most consistent version had him purchasing the ossuary for a few hundred dollars from a dealer—he couldn't remember whom—in Jerusalem in the early 1970s. It sat on his parents' balcony for years, when, apart from some occasional scrabbles administered by his mother, a recessed little case. Although he reads Aramaic, Cohen said he failed to recognize the importance of the inscription until Lemaire pointed it out

some three decades later. Being Jewish, he explained, he was unacquainted with the notion that Jesus Christ had siblings.

The memories drew the attention of the IAA. Under Israeli law, it is illegal to possess any object excavated after 1978. Suspicion of Cohen's story, and perhaps arising by the fact that they had unquestionably allowed such an important artifact to leave the country, investigators halted the collector in his tracks. Questions about the ossuary's archaeological provenance began to surface in the

media. The Brown Shit reported on the IAA investigations. The *Globe and Mail* did a story on the box's possibly dubious past, although it found someone who backed up Cohen's claim that it had been in his collection for decades. Deutch, the trader now charged along with Cohen, and alleged to have been one of the key traffickers of the false artifacts.

Despite the growing doubts, the museum forged ahead with the exhibition. It was an unqualified success, with the ROM drawing some 95,000 visitors during the show's six-week run. People flocked by the stone box, which sat inside a clear case. Many soaked up the information posted on the walls—Biblical passages about Jesus, what scientists did and didn't know about the origins of the ossuary. Some stood in silent prayer. "I'd never seen anything like that," says Reil.

"INEXCUSABLE" IS the word some critics now use to describe the decision to put the box on display. Eric Meyers, a professor of Jewish studies and archaeology at Duke University, questioned the authenticity of the inscription at one of the Toronto conferences held when the ossuary went on display. Since then, he believes that alarm bells should have been ringing but only heeded. "I think the ROM was reckless," he says. The museum displayed what was essentially an unprovenanced item, he says, and now its reputation is suffering. "You go to bed with dogs, and you wake up with flies."

Joe Zins, a former curator of archaeology and archaeology for the IAA, is even more blunt. "What are these guys, a bunch of whos?" he says. "They saw the opportunity to make a fast buck and they did it." Zins, a Michigan-born and -raised, spent 25 years working for the man who literally wrote the book on ossuaries, I. R. Lohman. He figures he's seen and handled hundreds of them. The Jewish burial boxes, which were used from about 70 BCE until the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE, are cheap and readily available in Israel. Zins takes me to the courtyard of my hotel to show me three that are serving as placeholders. Relying on geologists to authenticate one, as Shanks did, is like going to a politician for a checkmate, he says.

In the summer of 2003, Zins bought a copy of Shanks's book and finally saw a

picture of the James ossuary. It seemed familiar, and eventually he remembered seeing the box in a Jerusalem dealer's store in the mid-'90s. Back then, he recalled, the inscription is simply read, "James, son of Joseph." He went to the police with his story.

Ziss doesn't blame the public for falling in love with the idea that the box could be connected to Jesus. He blames Shinku, his agent, and the ROM for rushing the ossuary into the spotlight. "Mossad and there are two different types of people in the world, those who want to know, and those who want to believe," he says. "For those who want to believe, it's James the Just. For those who know, it's a forgery."

THERE ARE TWO large and richly colored mosaic portraits against the wall of the dining room at Shlomo Mossadoff's Jewish front Tel Aviv penthouse. One is of a rebel figure, the unshaved Michael, who turns the unshaved Golani. They are Byzantine, Mossadoff says, purchased just two weeks prior. From where? "That I cannot tell you," he says. He takes a drag from his Marlboro Lights—one of the 60 cigarettes the 82-year-old smokes each day. "Let's just say it was somewhere in the Fertile Crescent."

Mossadoff isn't too cautious in an era of rampant theft; very recently he acquired a couple pieces and very exclusive jewelry shop in London, he is a fixture on the list of Britain's wealthiest residents. There are a lot of competing and outsize narratives about his handsome past and how he became so successful— tales of gold suits, smuggling, sex and the Israeli secret service. Most of them he spins himself.

What is not in doubt is that Mossadoff is one of the world's elite collectors. He started trading antiquities at 12-year-old in Jerusalem, and for seven decades there have been his one consuming passion. "My aim is to enjoy everything related to the Bible," he says. "I pray the Bible is genuine. That is my day in this world." Very surface in the apartment, from the rich behind the table to the book under the table, displays a piece of history—bronze lions, glass amphoras, marble statues. In his Mossadoff that the religious past most museum to exhibit. "This is not my collection," he says. "This is for the people to take. If they take it, it won't break my heart." The really good stuff decorates his other home abroad.

According to the prosecution's indi-

'Oded Golan played with our beliefs.' says an Israeli police investigator. 'The beliefs of Jews and Christians. This is why it's the fraud of the century.'

ment, Mossadoff was the forgery ring's financial patron. He was also, with dozens in the market and willing to pay top dollar, principal driver of the alleged fakes becoming pieces of the collection. In 1993, the jeweler paid US\$200,000 for two carat—shards of pottery that were used for incense, like ancient Ketot-Neta. In 2002, Mossadoff paid US\$165,000 for 28 bull—small lamps of impressed clay that were affixed to official documents—and was set to fork over \$1 million more for gold attributed to King Meneshe, an ancient Judean ruler, before he developed cold feet.

All told, the defendant owes US\$258,000 of his purchases as fraud. In a recent newspaper interview, Mossadoff, who will be the prosecution's chief witness, estimated that he has bought US\$7 million worth of antiquities from Golan and the other defendants, though he still believes most of them are genuine. "Suppose they told me a fake, it's my fault," he says. "I have nothing against them—I should know better. Every dealer has this: 'The world is full of fakes.'"

When it comes to biblical relics, the world is also very real. Among the many books that are pulled on the barn-scented dining room table is one simply titled Shlomo: It's a collection of 79 academic papers about Mossadoff's collection, written by 24 of the world's most prominent archaeologists. Deutch, a long-time friend, pulled together the volume as a surprise for Mossadoff's 85th birthday. The pair even contrast to debauchery. The week before last interview, the dealer said he has a coin for \$80,000, Mossadoff told me.

The IAA and Israeli police have never been shy about suggesting that an old news between dealer, collectors and academics are a little too close, if not downright suspicious.



Ziss says funeral home was ready available; Pagan (right) headed the investigation.

When a newly discovered antiquity is given an unequivocal authentication, everyone involved benefits. Dealers can fetch a higher price. An owner gets bragging rights, plus the promise of a bigger tax write-off if the item is eventually donated to a museum. The academic gain to publish, building a reputation and a case for more grants. "It so happens that certain scholars were very enthusiastic about a lot of these items," says the friend squall's Pagan. "We see the same names over and over again."

Israel's ruddy-orange with-white antiques police are only seen to corroborate the problem. Dealer's shops are filled with items from illegal post-1978 excavations, most purchased from poor Palestinian diggers who have taken advantage of the ruleless and looted almost every archaeological site in the West Bank. "Everyone's a crook in this business," says Oded Chay, a nephew of Mossadoff's and owner of an antiquities shop. The paperwork necessary to keep the authorities at bay can be obtained for a modest investment. "Archae-



ologists don't get paid that much," says Chay. "For a few thousand shekels, you can find one who will write whatever you want." No one, it seems, has an interest in asking too many questions.

And, even though the integrity of the vast majority of experts is beyond reproach, how few the specific thinking to staff one a truly sophisticated forgery. The genius of Golan's ring, say police, was how he exploited the fact that scholars need to have very focused areas of knowledge. An antiquarist may know everything about ancient Hebrew

inscriptions, but very little about the stories they are written on or their potters. A geologist, vice versa. Neither is looking at the object as a whole. A declaration by one expert that something seems authentic can have a spillover effect, coloring the opinion of experts in totally different disciplines.

In the case of the James ossuary, witnesses charge that Golan started with a 2,000-year-old box bearing the inscription "James, son of Joseph." They allege that, using a computer graphics program, he scanned a fragment of pottery from the 1st century AD, and reformed and reformed the letters to form a new phrase, "brother of Jesus." Then the words were added to the box, and a convincing layer of glossy pottery rock ground into a paste—was baked on or otherwise applied. Police say that, among the items seized from Golan's partners and warehouses, were carefully labeled envelopes of earth from digs around the country, and ancient charcoal, which they allege was used to make ink for the marks.

Ravi Golan, a professor of archaeology at Tel Aviv University, was a member of the special committee that the IAA established

to examine the Hebrew inscription, and the James ossuary, which was seized in March 2003 (archaeologists say they found it on a tablet on Golan's roof, where they photographed it, but Golan says that was set up). A specialist in micro-archaeology, the official method of studying materials in artfairs, Golan also examined the alleged fakes from Mossadoff's collection, as well as the Israel Museum's famous papyrus. Strong in his basement lab, he says the fakes were stylistically well executed. But the ossuary clearly showed that a layer of wax had been placed over the ink, he says, to prevent the writings from wearing when the new pot was applied. The ball, newly made with the same color, was used to seal the ink. After type of lead that used in the oldest to positive, meaning the clay had to have been fired within the past 100 years.

The James ossuary and the Hebrew tablet had different types of pottery made their assumptions that on the surrounding world. They were grey and granular and could be wiped away with a finger, unlike a coating that has naturally developed over centuries. Further analysis showed the pot was in the inscriptions contained many more microfractures than the pieces on the rest of the two artifacts, or on other ossuaries (the regular potting process dissolves the traces of ancient ash left within the base stone). A study of oxygen isotopes from within the James inscription showed values that were out of keeping with the age of the box and the conditions—a dark, damp tomb—would have been kept in for a couple of millennia.

Golan makes it sound like some class dink that I wonder about how so many people—academics, promoters, consultants—could have failed to see the ossuary's shortcomings. He adds I've overheard of Jerusalem syndrome, a psychosis that occasionally affects pilgrims to the Holy Land. "Scholars are like that, too," Golan says. "They become overwhelmed when they see a spectacular find from the First Temple or an ossuary with the name of Jesus on it. It's tempting for people to buy into it. Archaeologists are in a race of making the great discovery of their lives. It's not a secret."

ON THE PHONE from his Washington office, the man who sold the ROM on the James ossuary is making his case. "My pitch is this: The IAA has badly bungled this

investigation," Muntel Shanks says. "And they haven't demonstrated by a long shot that this is a forgery." He has prepared a thick packet of information to back up his claims, which arrives the next day by courier. It contains copies of the indictment and the official reports submitted by the IAA scientists. There are statements from two of Golah's former girlfriends saying they remember the ossuary as a long-time fixture of his collection. And there is a critique by a University of Toledo professor of the advice behind the oxygen isotope test, the IAA's smoking gun.

For true believers, the ossuary cast his taken on the status of the bloody glove that O.J. couldn't pull over his hand. Scientists scooped putrid from seven different spots inside the ossuary's inscriptions. Six of the samples came back with oxygen values way outside the norm. The seventh, taken from the very last letter, was in the same range as the coating on the rest of the box, or other ossuaries. The IAA has dismissed that result as an anomaly, but Shanks and his supporters say the periodic scribbles that Golah's elderly mother is supposed to have given the box when it sat on her balcony could have accounted for the charge-discharge anomalies. They have even tested four popular salt-dissolving powders to see what role the abrasives could have played. "They never explore this innocent explanation," says Shanks. "They never explore the alternative."

The IAA has had difficulty recruiting its disdains for such it doesn't do so-outcast academic theories, employing terms like "heretic," "apocryphal," and "eccentrically" Shanks doesn't seem to see it. A Harvard-trained midlawyer, the 75-year-old became associated with the Holy Land during a sabbatical in Israel in the early 1970s. In 1974, he launched the Biblical Archaeology Review, writing the first issue entirely by himself. Land protesting for just \$600. Today, his not-for-profit biblical archaeology society publishes three glossy magazines with a combined circulation of 200,000, and more than 100 Bible-themed DVDs, seminars, cruises and Holy Land tours.

Over the years, Shanks has proven adept at keeping his core audience in the news. When oil companies drilled with more success (including in Israel) were discovered in a dig in Israel, he provided one a headline-grabbing debate on whether the Review should publish photos. It eventually printed tiny ones, on an eye-to-eye-to-eye perforated page.



Every dealer has them, Muntel Shanks says. Shanks (right) argues the box is genuine.

Academics don't consider the Review a scholarly journal, but they still like to publish in it. The full-color articles look great, and the readers—more than half are evangelical Christians—are known for donating money and free labor to Holy Land excavations. The ossuary bought by Muntel Shanks had been bought by Muntel Shanks. So did the popular debate in the magazine. So did the controversy, in an article written by Andre Lemaire.

Shanks hasn't been shy about firing back at the ossuary's more vocal critics. The package he sends me helpfully includes a scathing review of a book by Rochelle Altman, a specialist in writing papers who has frequently asserted that the inscription is full of errors and was written by two different hands. In the May/June 2004 edition of the Review, he launched a sharp attack on Meyers and Ziss and under the headline "Lying Scholars." He concluded Ziss's claim that he had seen the unaltered ossuary in a Jerusalem shop, quoting the dealer as saying he "just never heard" of the former curator. Next to the story, Shanks pub-



lished a full photo of the man standing in the door with his shirt clashing with an undercoat. Unfortunately for Shanks, the other figure was Ziss (whose Shanks has known for decades).

Throughout the ossuary debate, it is Shanks who appears to have benefited the most. His book, which had an initial run of 75,000 copies, is now out in a revised second edition. Half of the profits went to his society. Shanks says without discussing figures, with the remainder split evenly between himself and his co-author, Jacobovici—still a strong

believer in the authenticity of the box—tells me he paid Shanks the equivalent of an executive producer's fee. (The documentary was aired in more than 150 countries, and Jacobovici's exclusive behind the scenes footage has frequently been used by news programs like *60 Minutes*.) And it was Shanks' treasury, not Golah, which received the ROM's exhibition fee.

Publicly available documents of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service show that the Biblical Archaeology Society generated profit under \$155 million in revenue in 2003. Shanks, whose job is described as a weekly "20 hour" position, received \$182,000 in salary, while the organization paid a further \$44,000 in rent to a company he owns. The charity, which lists grants to "worthwhile projects in the field of archaeology and the Bible" as one of its principal activities, handed out just \$2,197 to each project in 2003. In 2003, when Shanks made \$250,000 in salary and \$62,000 in rent, it gave away \$9,540. One of the biggest beneficiaries was Lemaire, who received a \$1,000 "travel scholarship for the Jesus ossuary work."

Though his magazines, Shanks has been trying to whip up pressure to force the Israeli

'Scholars become overwhelmed when they see an ossuary with the name of Jesus on it,' says one specialist who studied the box. 'It's tempting to buy into it.'

authorities to hand over the ossuary for further testing—the type of methodical scrutiny by international experts so rarely subjected when the box was first interpreted to the world. Even if other items connected to Golah are proven to be fakes, he says, it doesn't mean the ossuary isn't linked to Jesus. The IAA and the police have their agendas, and dissent within the investigation community was stifled. "I don't say that there's conspiracy, I don't say that they're in cahoots. I'm just pointing things out," says Shanks.

He's even got a suggestion for another story that I might find more interesting. The Biblical Archaeology Society is offering to purchase the forged papyrus from the Israel Museum for US\$350,000. Unsurprisingly, Shanks plans to part it up. After all, there are still a lot of people out there who believe it's real.

THERE'S A WHITE construction bar atop the reproduction Roman bath that sits on William Tell's desk. Along with the many displays of the ROM's \$280 million acquisition that line the walls, it's a clear sign that under the CEO's watch the grand dream of Canadian museums is more concerned with the future than the past. It's been over a year and a half since Israeli authorities publicly denounced the Jesus ossuary as a fake. The ROM's official position hasn't changed. "It's not so sure, and in any case, it doesn't believe it has anything to apologize for. I want to put the case back on the table," says Shanks, a former editor-in-chief of the *Globe and Mail*. "We should be doing some of that, bringing things forward that are under debate." As he points out, the museum did have a well-studied and hotly contested forum on the ossuary

when the show opened. And the text that accompanied the exhibition noted that questions remained about its authenticity. Following the bad publicity generated by a Radio show in 2001—many of the ossuary were said to have been made long after the carpenter's death—the museum has been extra cautious in such matters.

Looking back, however, it's easy to see where such disclaimers might have been lost on the paying public. The most prominent words in the full-page newspaper ads that ran that Christmas season were "brother of Jesus." In slightly smaller letters was the question, "Is this the first archaeological link to the existence of Jesus?" Only in the floor plans were people invited to "explore the fascinating theories" surrounding the box that "some scholars believe" may be linked to Christ. The ROM's current website still has a section devoted to the ossuary. It says "There is evidence to support that the Jesus ossuary is authentic." The website acknowledges that the IAA has declared it a fraud, but copiously doubts until the ROM can analyze the full report. Nowhere is there mention of final changes in Israel.

Golah's trial, and what might emerge from it, could end up being a problem for the ROM. But the Israeli police and the IAA have alleged that the museum made "redlines" on the exhibition, even after paying Shanks a \$400,000 fee that included a percentage of every ticket sold. ROM officials call such speculation "total rubbish." Shanks was paid US\$250,000 up front, plus another \$3,000 when the show was awarded for an extra week, says Raham, who is now overseeing the development of the museum's new galleries. There was no commission, nor did the museum pay any of the incidental costs. Still, says just after the show closed, there was an internal alarm that it had made a \$275,000 profit—a huge success by ROM standards, since exhibitions usually need corporate sponsorship just to break even. But the museum now downplays that figure.

Potentially more damaging are allegations that museum staff hidboarded keep supporters about the inscription, but the ossuary was put on display anyway. Uri Dahan, the deputy director of the IAA, remembers on August 2003 meeting he had with the ROM's Raham in Jerusalem. He says Raham told him that a contractor working on the damaged box came to museum



'What are these guys—a bunch of whores?' one expert on ossuaries asks bluntly. 'They saw the opportunity to make a fast buck, and they did it.'

afflicts with his concern that the "brother of Jesus" portion of the inscription appeared first, and clearly not through the existing pattern. Kahlon, Doherty says, approached Shanks with the concern. Shanks called Golani. "Golani told them that before stepping in to Tzarteta, he asked his mother to clean the inscription, and that was good enough for them," says Doherty. "They wanted to make money."

Thornell says as such concerns were ever brought to his attention. Rahim acknowledges that there were worries, but says the BAS is leaving out one crucial detail—he and other curators examined the inscription under the microscope and found what they believed to be traces of genuine dispirited ink. The grooves "are all which naturally believe it was real," he says. It seemed consistent with Golani's story that the mother had used a small to scrape away the dirt from the precious discovery. "There was a lot of pressure, but I don't think it changed our opinion," Rahim tells a similar story, and remains among the thinking minority who believe the claim is authentic. "I'm ready to accept the idea that it was dug by a brilliant forger," he says. "But I haven't been given unusual scientific evidence that it's a fake."

Rahim is no longer quite so sure. "I have no doubt that the box still is an ancient ossuary," he notes carefully. "Would it display it now? The answer is no."

ODED GOLAN complains bitterly about a "Kufassque" entail that has included 30 embezzlement and three police raids, though he is retaining a tendency to compare his suffering to Christ's. "I had a vision that I would have to undergo my own crucifixion," he told a *Washington Post* reporter last year. "The charges are the indictment."



On display at the ROM Orah, police say they found the ossuary of a talent in Doherty's roof.

are, may, he says. "Look at the pieces they are selling. The only common thing is that there is nothing in common."

He's right. Unless, like the authorities, you believe that the glaze that bonded everything together was money. The ossuary was offered up for sale to the International Christian Embassy, an evangelical organization in Jerusalem, for US\$1 million. (Golani says an acquaintance made the sales pitch without his knowledge.) The Tel Aviv police detective that Golani hired to approach the Israel Museum with the Ichonah tablet made inquiries as to whether about the possibility of exchanging the artifact for a famous painting, perhaps a Van Gogh. One of the other artifacts in the indictment, a quartz bowl with a hieroglyphic inscription that appeared

to answer a question that had long plagued scholars—who decamped the city of Magdala—was allegedly offered for sale to several museums around the world. And Israeli investigators say they have been contacted by a number of other institutions that are worried about items in their collections.

Still, for all the other charges, the item Golani spends most of his time talking about is the Jesus ossuary. "It changed my life, not for the better," he says. If someone wanted to fake such an inscription, wouldn't they make it more explicit, he asks, perhaps use it as "James the Just" or "brother of Jesus Christ"? He mentions the testimony his former girlfriends are willing to give, and says there's an old photograph of him and the ossuary that will come out in the trial.

What he's most excited about, however, is a fact that has just arrived from a religious studies professor in Rome. The scholar writes that two decades ago, his brother-in-law, a former Israeli diplomat in Israel, told him about an ossuary inscribed "James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus," that was in the possession of a Tel Aviv collector. Golani's eyes are shining. He breaks away at one point to take a call from Shanks and fill him in on the latest development.

It's not until I've well down the highway back to Jerusalem that the neighbors click into place. If Golani never recognized the significance of the inscription until just a few years ago, how would anyone else come to know that he owned such a find? And wouldn't a scholar be interested in following up such a story? Later on, I push up the professor on the Internet. He teaches at the Sorbonne, and once wrote a book with André Lemaître.

For more information, visit www.rom.ohr.org

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It's signs of the times that a company like Intel, best known for making PC components, is now so involved in changing the face of television. The networking part of the convergence picture may be leading-edge, but other convergence products definitely are ready.

PVRs: Personal video recorders (PVRs)—television set-top boxes for recording and decoding satellite or digital cable TV signals that incorporate large computer hard drives—have already had a big impact. Bell ExpressVu's current D30 PVR System (S994, for example, includes an integrated 120GB hard drive, which can store over 300 hours of broadcast-quality video.

With a PVR setting up a recording is as simple as clicking on a title you want to see on-screen program guide. Thanks to digital technology, the recording is virtually unalterable from the original broadcast. Viewers can virtually fast-forward through commercials at warp speed, and even "pause" live broadcasts while they take phone calls or fridge breaks.

Media centre PCs: Today, high-end media centre PCs (\$1,000 and up) often outperform the like-theatre-PiKard and Dell offer PVR and other extra functions.

Media centre PCs have one key advantage: A PC solves the remote-control problem that has to do with a multiple-device home theatre system. Media centre PCs address the issue much more effectively than traditional remotes.

"The main problem here is that it allows you to integrate simple on-screen controls," explains Cooper.

Most media centre PCs use Microsoft's Windows XP Media Center edition and come with their own remote control. They also let users play digital music from a hard drive, the Internet or local radio stations, show slide shows with digital pictures, burn make DVDs and more. CDs and manage media content.

All the heart of many in video technology from ATI Technologies—now known primarily for making PC display adapters—that is incorporated in high-end televisions from Sony and digital TV set-top boxes used by Rogers.

Hybrid PVRs: It despite the arguments of the labels and ATIs of this world, you still don't think computers belong in the living room, a new type of consumer electronics product can serve many of the same functions. Hybrid DVD-PVRs, like Panasonic's DMR-ES200 (\$2,300), offer standard PVR features, including off-air recording using an on-screen program guide, plus DVD recording from the hard drive—with no PC.



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Getting computers, digital cameras and other home electronics to work together used to require a PhD in patience. The digital home has changed that.

Whether it's music, photos, or movies, today's digital home gives you the freedom to enjoy your media from any room in your home - without wires. Also gone are the half dozen remotes hiding in your couch, replaced with a single remote that lets you choose what you want from an on-screen menu.

It's a new entertainment experience - pause a live program and watch it on the TV in the bedroom, or view family pictures stored on your computer from the comfort of your living room. The options are endless - and wireless. Today's digital home brings home entertainment and technology together and makes them both simpler.

Creating your digital home

Two new innovations bring you closer to a digital home: the Entertainment PC and the Digital Media Adapter (DMA).

The Entertainment PC

Powered by the Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor with HT Technology, the sleek Entertainment PC is the ultimate home entertainment hub. Using a simple on-screen menu, the Entertainment PC allows you to easily access and manage your favourite digital content, such as digital photos, music and video-plus record, pause and replay TV shows. Not only can you store all of your digital content on the Entertainment PC, it lets you share it with other devices like your TV or stereo. The Entertainment PC is truly a device that does it all!

Boasting the performance of a desktop computer and equipped with a wireless keyboard and TV-like remote, the Entertainment PC lets you surf the Internet, check email and play games even while recording live TV. Add a wireless network to your home and your Entertainment PC becomes your one touch broadcasting centre!

The Digital Media Adapter (DMA)

Digital Media Adapters bridge the gap between your home electronics and your Entertainment PC. They attach to a device - your bedroom TV for example - and wirelessly receive digital information from your Entertainment PC. Now you can record a TV show on an Entertainment PC and then access and watch it in your room the next night, or use a DMA to stream music from your computer to a home stereo in another room. How you use your DMA depends on your needs.

As you collect more digital photos, music and videos, DMA will enable you to get better use out of your existing electronics today while enjoying the technology of tomorrow.



The Intel Entertainment PC

How the Entertainment PC (EPC) works with what you're going to.

TVE

- connects directly to your TV cable box
- use your TV for Internet access to download music, video playback
- video stored on the EPC can be viewed by other devices on the home network
- schedule the EPC to record, pause and replay shows

Audio

- experience 7.1 surround sound audio
- controls playback and volume
- can record CDs or stream music anywhere in the home

Video

- acts as a DVD player and recorder
- edits or creates movies
- organize your DVD or slides collection

Photography

- connects to digital cameras
- show photographs on TV or computer screen
- touch up photos instantly

intel.

The Digital Home in Action:

Judi and Frank Zane were entertaining friends from overseas. A decade's worth of memories needed to be shared, so the Zanes used their Entertainment PC to create a slideshow from pictures on both their digital camera and the PC in the den that could be sent wirelessly to the living room TV. They even recorded a selection of music from times they'd shared that could be played over their pictures. It was all both fast and simple. The Entertainment PC gave the Zanes complete control without disturbing their guests.

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ROBERTA JAMIESON "OVERCOMING ALL OBSTACLES"

VANCOUVER • APRIL 20, 2005

Chief Executive Officer of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, Roberta has enjoyed a distinguished career of "firsts". The first aboriginal woman to obtain a Law Degree, she later went on to become the first non-parliamentarian appointed to a House of Commons committee. In 1999 she was the first woman to be appointed Ombudsman for the Province of Ontario and in 2001 was elected the first female Chief of Six Nations of the Grand River, the country's most populous reserve. Join this recipient of the Order of Canada as she shares how determination and effort can overcome all barriers.



KATHLEEN TAYLOR "SETTING A HIGHER STANDARD"

TORONTO • APRIL 4, 2005

Kathleen Taylor, President, Worldwide Business Operations for Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts has committed herself to continuous innovation and setting the highest standards in the hospitality industry. A lawyer by background, Kathleen has risen through the Four Seasons organization by facing on new challenges. Join Kathleen as she shares her thoughts, experiences and insights on creating a unique and successful corporate culture.

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To find out how you can have the chance to enter this exciting contest, visit us at an upcoming luncheon.

*Full rules and regulations are available at the event. Contest runs February 15, 2005 to June 24, 2005.

Networking video: The next, and most exciting, step will be networking the home. When all your intelligent TVs, camcorders, DVRs and DVD players are linked, you can watch any program from any source—cable or satellite feed, hard drive or DVD—even streamed from the Internet—on any screen in the house. And you'll control all the devices in your network with simple on-screen menus—using your smart phone or PDA instead of a clunky remote control.

Intel, an charter member of the Digital Living Network Alliance (DLNA), helped develop standards that will make hassle-free, plug-and-play Wi-Fi home network connections possible. For example, when you turn on your laptop in the den, the TV in the living room will sense its presence and offer movies that are ready to make content shared on its hard drive.

The first media networking products don't offer all the ease-of-use features promised by the DLNA standards, but the ability to distribute video- and satellite signals. That will Sony's LocationFree TV (\$2,500 to \$2,000) offers a lot.

LocationFree TV is a portable screen on 12-inch LCD-TV with built-in wireless networking. It comes with a smart Wi-Fi antenna and also comes to a mobile TV, satellite TV and the Internet. You can move in to TV stations on the LCD and anywhere in your house and watch live-a-broadcast-quality programming with no wires. What's more, you can take the portable LCD away with you and use it to log in to your home network over the Internet. LocationFree TV sends broadcast signals and stored content over the Net from your cable box or DVD player.

"LocationFree TV is changing the way Canadians watch TV," says Sony of Canada spokesperson John Chaffin. "It's changing where they watch it and what they use it for."

Sony's home networking technology has the capacity to move digital broadcast-quality signals around a home, but with the advent of HDTV that won't be enough. HDTV requires much higher capacity. The DLNA digital vision may only come to full fruition when work to combine a new faster Wi-Fi that promises almost double the capacity of today's fastest technology—probably by 2005.

HDTV: Plenty of the TVs that consumers are salivating over today are digital sets that are either HDTV or HDTV-ready. HDTV-ready screens can display higher-resolution images better than standard definition screens—720p or 1080i vertical lines or pixels of resolution—to accommodate sharper, more vivid HDTV images. Consumers apparently want to be ready when HDTV happens. Over 16 per cent of all TVs sold in Canada are now HDTV or HDTV-ready.

Sony, which provides much of the equipment Canada's broadcast system uses, has seen significant investments in HDTV infrastructure already, and anticipates more. "We're confident about the future of HDTV," Chaffin says. "We're seeing aggressive investment by the network owners."

Flat panel: LCD and plasma flat panels have become a hot topic again. After 13 years, there's nothing cooler than a TV that can hang on the wall," says Kevin Shuman, a product specialist with Panasonic Canada.



TV2006 Sony's new LCD TV features a built-in wall mount and a built-in digital tuner. It's also available in a variety of sizes, from 10 to 42 inches.



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The latest models have come down in price—in the case of LCDs, significantly. Still, they're not inexpensive. LCD TVs range in size from 10-inch to 42-inch. LCD TVs range in price from \$1,000 to \$2,000. They're priced at \$1,000 to \$2,000. They're priced at \$1,000 to \$2,000. They're priced at \$1,000 to \$2,000.

But new models incorporate significant technological improvements. For example, LCD response times—or how long it takes to refresh an image—have improved from 16 to 12 milliseconds, though fast motion may still appear blurred or pixelated.

LCDs make sense for consumers who want relatively small screen sizes and the visual appeal of flat panels—and are willing to sacrifice some picture quality. Plasma offers picture quality to rival traditional cathode ray tubes, larger sizes and an unbeatable flat-panel aesthetic.

Rear-projection: Digital rear-projection sets look, at first glance, exactly like the screen flat-panel models—then you notice the bump and the bulk. Cost per square inch of screen is substantially lower than LCD or plasma. Digital rear-projection sets range in size from 40 to 70 inches, while prices range from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Digital rear-projection technology, collectively referred to as microdisplay, includes LCD, digital light processing (DLP) and liquid crystal on silicon (LCoS). All involve displaying video signal on multiple small digital arrays and then reflecting or projecting the image forward on a front panel.

These units sit on a table or mount on the ceiling and project a large image on a flat screen hanging on the wall. Itachi's R2-TX100 70-inch widescreen HDTV model, for example, supports screen sizes up to 300 inches and will cost less than \$4,000.

Will flat panels eventually replace rear-projection sets? Some vendors committed to flat panels are yes, and some others maintain digital rear-projection is here for the long haul.

"Right now plasma displays, while coming down in price, are not coming down as fast as LCD," says Robert Gennaro, director of television marketing at Tech Inc. of Canada Ltd. "The law of diminishing returns really comes into play here." He means that a 50-inch plasma HDTV for \$1,000 to \$1,500 probably isn't as good as a 50-inch rear-projection model for \$1,000 to \$1,500. Gennaro expects the price differential to remain wide for the foreseeable future, at least in large screen sizes.

Looking ahead: The changing face of television is just that, changing. Toshiba, for example, recently announced the first product in its next-gen flat-panel technology co-developed with Canon called surface-conduction electron-emitter displays, or SEDs. Its developers say these panels will be thinner than plasma with a better picture—higher contrast ratio, faster response time, more colors. While SED panels are expected next year, so is doubt there will be significant other changes to the face of TV for years to come.



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SPILLING THE JUICE

If the pros don't police steroids, vows Canada's sports minister, government will

AS WITNESSES GO, Jose Canseco leaves much to be desired. He's potently self-serving. He's arrogant, he's vicious, he's unrepentant and his tales of rampant steroid abuse in pro baseball tend to wander into more-storied territory, as when he recalled a conversation he allegedly had in spring training of 2000 while playing for the Anaheim Angels. Canseco claims in his now only published book that, after beating a double in a game against Seattle, he began chatting up Marvyn's second baseman Ivet Ruess, asking whether

Ruess had received chemical help to bulk up over the winter. "Shhh," his opponent supposedly responded. "Don't tell anybody."

Canseco, it turns out, never made it to second base in five games against the Mariners that spring—which says so much about his career trajectory at the time as it does about his credibility. But for all his foibles, Canseco has accomplished what anti-doping advocates couldn't despite years of trying: lifting steroid abuse from a crisis in amateur athletics into a genuine scandal in professional sports. If even half his allegations are true, performance-enhancing drugs were so commonplace in Major League Baseball in the 1990s that everyone from superstars to league commissioners had to begin new have a lot to answer for—especially given the growing body of evidence (see, below) that steroids pose enormous health risks.

For a change, we're starting to get these explanations. While last week's hearings into doping by a U.S. congressional committee were notably polite, they marked the first time league executives and players have been questioned publicly, under oath, about the scourge. The answers were evasive, but the spectacle was illuminating: a who's who of baseball, from Selig to home run idol Barry Bonds, summoned like naughty school boys to a headmaster's office, the once-outrageous Mark McGwire, shrunken in size and public stature, so shyly refusing to answer questions, Canseco blithely making the most of his colleagues while arm-chambering on the evils of drugs that he helped make him rich. Only in America, right?

Actually, no. As Canseco et al. stumbled through their Q&A in Washington, Canadian Minister of State for Sport Stephen Owen was telling McGwire's story he, too, has had enough of the pro league's preventing. Canada, he noted, will sign a UNESCO convention next fall committing it to fighting doping in all sports. Now the clock is ticking. If the pro leagues agree to it, this country has to



Stonic feed of a cocaine overdose—with steroids in his bloodstream

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implement meaningful doping controls after Canada signs, he says, the government will be in a position to legislate. "We've got a major mission, a public responsibility, to make sure this thing is dealt with," he adds. Owen says he would support holding U.S.-style hearings if necessary, using the parliamentary health committee as a special panel struck for the occasion. "It'd certainly be pleased," he says, "to lead it."

If Owen's words ring true, it's because professional sports leagues in this country have been flying under the doping radar for years—despite our national blood-doping oscar seconds following Ben Johnson's exposure as a cheat at the 1988 Summer Games. When Toronto Maple Leafs referee John Kordic died of a cocaine overdose in a Quebec City motel in 1992, steroids were found in his bloodstream. Yet the NHL, president of the day, Gil Stein, denied the need for league-wide testing, arguing steroid use was not widespread in hockey.

The current commission, Gary Bettman, echoed that thought in a radio interview in December, saying steroids were "inconceivable with what your body has to do to be a successful hockey player." But there are signs that the league is finally snapping its head around on the desirability of testing. An anti-doping policy is part of the current round of bargaining between the NHL and the players' union, and will be included in a deal when (and if) one is announced. In an email to Maclean's, vice-president Bill Daly said the league is working on a testing regime with strict penalties for a first offence, and escalating sanctions for repeat offences. For now, he added, the issue counts among the least contentious of the lengthy do-or-die talks. "We've had preliminary discussions on the subject," he said, "and we don't anticipate too much difficulty in negotiating a mutually satisfactory [anti-doping] program."

As it stands, the prevalence of performance-enhancing drugs in hockey remains something of a mystery. Random testing performed before the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City produced no steroids involving NHL stars. And the league quietly did tests on players before and during the summer's World Cup of Hockey—with no adverse results. It's true that testing at such elite tournaments is unlikely to turn up the Kordic-style enforcers, who are prone to build muscle mass, or recover from injuries.



Millican was charged after police seized 120,000 steroid pills plus injectable liquid

"But I'm pretty optimistic about hockey," says Christine Agosti, head of the NHL's in-house Armstrong-Frappier laboratory in Peterborough, Ont., and one of the world's leading anti-doping scientists. "They've been doing some testing that nobody asked them to."

Football is another matter. By common estimate, as many as one-in-five players in the CFL have used, or taken, performance-enhancing drugs. And there are enough steroid scandals to select the most stubborn deniers of a systemic problem. John Mandarich, a defensive lineman with the 1990 Denver Broncos, admitted using the drugs before his death of cancer in 1993 at the age of 31. Allen Pitts, a star receiver with the Calgary Stampeders, was indicted in

1995 at the U.S.-Canada border in Montreal with 28 containers of marijuana in his car for cooking the drugs, he said, to recover from injury. Two years ago, Mike Millican, a 29-year-old offensive lineman with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, was charged after police seized 120,000 steroid pills and hundreds of bottles of injectable steroid liquid from homes in Mississauga and Milton, Ont.

Until recently, the league had shrugged off these incidents, citing the cost of a testing regime was prohibitive. But spokeswoman Alison Radford says the league is now drafting a policy it hopes to take to its players' union soon. "I can't give you a timeline," she adds. But it has to be something the clubs and the players take seriously, "and it's important that the public sees we feel that way."

A CFL membership would come as good news to the Canadian Centre for Ethical Sport (CCES),

which had been pressuring the league for at least two years to enact something—anything—in the way of its anti-doping program. "The behaviours and values modelled to professional sports trickle down," says Paul Melis, the organization's chief executive. "They have a dramatic impact on the community level." Complaints about cost had never washed with Melis, with doping control efforts across the country ready to work for a modest \$100,000, plus a wealth of educational material available from the CCES, he pegs the yearly cost to the CFL of an effective, random-test program at less than \$10,000.

Critics, of course, will complain that the money at stake in pro sports practically guarantees cheats will continue to defy any doping control program. They're right: last year's BALCO Laboratory scandal suggests there will be a new crop, with new chemistry and new cheats willing to pay up for a perceived edge. But if Joe Carrao offers anything to professional sports, it's the guarantee that no one will dope with such impunity again—then cash in on his notoriety. It's the one aspect of the story you can count on. **B**

chelle.giles@maclean's.ca



Rick Hovey

Every Canadian loves a challenge, right?

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PATENT PREDATORS

Get rights to invention, find juicy target, make \$450 million. Nice business.

WHEN RESEARCH IN MOTION LTD., maker of the cell-phone BlackBerry email device, agreed last week to pay US\$450 million to settle a long-standing patent-infringement lawsuit, the news fairly buzzed through both the tech and legal communities. Not only was the settlement among the highest known deals in patent-law history, the case spotlighted a growing, steep-million-dollar phenomenon south of the border. RIM is the latest victim in an area of multiplying and increasingly unresolvable lawsuits over patent violations.

At the center of the debate are companies known as patent vultures or trolls, not up solely for the purpose of holding patents and pursuing licensing agreements and lawsuits over infringements. They often obtain rights to intellectual property by picking up the remains of dis-eased billions. Other times, they buy patents directly from inventors. "These are super companies," says Boston-based patent lawyer Philip Swann, "that never built a product, never built a business, and never really did any

good for anyone." Swann, who wrote a brief supporting RIM's position on behalf of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, says such outfits use patents to build up legitimate, successful companies, "just like the trolls in any industry who bid and/or bribe their way into the industry."

No one's counted them, but patent lawyers like Swann say vultures are becoming increasingly common in the litigation-happy U.S. Legal journals are publishing papers about the suits, and lawyers and

academics are debating how to keep such cases in check. Just last week, the Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO), a Washington-based lobby group representing patent-owning corporations and inventors, held a one-day conference on the issue. There's a legitimate role for patent-licensing organizations, many of which help small inventors protect their innovations, says Herbert Wansley, IPO's executive director. "But there are also abusive practices going on. We've been hearing from members about ten of threats of lawsuits and other bad business by organizations that buy up patents."

The company that sued RIM may not qualify as a vulture. But in this case, it certainly moved in for the kill. NTP Inc. is a Virginia-based patent-holding company.

Privately owned and so small that one attorney described it as the "dwarf" in a lawyer's office, it was created 13 years ago by a now deceased engineer named Tom Campenon, one of the lawyers, Don Stutz, and an investor named Bill White. Today, NTP has 23 shareholders, among them six of the founder's relatives, says Jon Wallace, the D.C. lawyer who argued NTP's patent suit against RIM.

Those 23 individuals will share the US\$450-million windfall, says Wallace. "They can go buy an airplane, some of them may take, some may buy a boat. They can do whatever they want."

IN RECENT YEARS, patent litigation has risen steadily in the States, up eight percent in the 12 months ended March 31, 2006. Meanwhile, the volume of patent applications has skyrocketed, doubling over the past decade, according to the U.S. Patent Office, which in 2003 handled 342,491 new files.

While 50 years ago patents typically covered mechanical and chemical inventions, many applications today seek to protect high-tech innovations. Often expressed as lines of code, they can be virtually copied, pleasurable to all but the most highly trained computer programmers. And this is partly what's driving the patent-lawsuit industry. Cronin says the Patent Office is ill-equipped to deal with the complexity of new technology applications. It's difficult, they say, to determine what's really novel or truly inventive, causing the office to issue patents that should never have been granted.

Another concern is the way industry managers pursue. As a matter of strategy, large corporations tend to pursue patents on their own innovations, says Alexander Stahl, a Canadian patent lawyer who's pursuing a PhD in international patent law. These organizations know their competitors, also patent stockpilers, are likely to make infringement claims against them. So, like birds with hocky sticks, they agree to exchange letters. "The idea of building up your arsenal is to have something to trade," Stahl says. "This is a defensive tactic." Vultures, however, don't expect anything that might influence another's patents, so there's nothing to trade. They simply come looking for money.

The issue discussed at last week's conference, Wansley recalls, was the "1,000-plus problem." Recent suits typically seek out mistakes—often from seven—to dozens



RIM co-CEOs Mike Lazaridis and Jan Holmberg are paying a fortune to settle a patent battle.

if not hundreds of companies, in which they suggest the firms may offer a patented function. The toll may offer a licensee for a relatively low price—say, \$50,000. Some companies opt to pay the fee, which can cost less than investigating a potential breach, rather than risk a lawsuit, Wansley says. NTP's first communication with RIM

"THESE are paper companies that never built a product, never built a business, never did any good for anyone"

came in early 2000—a year after the BlackBerry was introduced—with a letter saying some of Campenon's patents were infringed by technology used in the BlackBerry's wireless email system. The letter, which was similar to ones sent to 47 other companies, didn't accuse RIM of violating patent protection and didn't threaten a lawsuit.

Almost two years went by before RIM heard from NTP again. This time, though, NTP informed the BlackBerry maker that it

was suing for patent infringement. (The other 47 companies, including earlier, who'd weren't as high profile as RIM, were notified.) NTP's claim was based on several patents Campenon had acquired some 10 years before for a method he'd developed of sending messages electronically from a computer to a pager.

Right from the start, the case went against RIM. In November 2002, a jury awarded US\$23 million to NTP, plus 5.7 percent royalties on RIM's U.S. BlackBerry sales. Some months later, the judge added the penalty to US\$4 million and boosted royalties to a 5.5 percent fee. Later went further, barring the sale of BlackBerries in the United States, but that was put on hold pending RIM's appeal. That decision came last December, reaffirming

crucial parts of the jury verdict. It was a disaster for RIM.

In January, the Canadian government took the extraordinary measure of filing a brief in support of RIM. Obviously interested in a business's legal affairs, but in this case raised the question of whether U.S. patent law could reach over the border since BlackBerry e-mails are routed through RIM's servers in Waterloo, Ont., the technology giant's outside American parent corporation, Research In Motion and NTP settled their dispute. That question was never answered by the court. Another issue that remains open is RIM's duty—and the got off to deliberate—that NTP's patents are valid, as was the U.S. Patent Office's decision to investigate.

NTP's owners believe the RIM settlement is just the beginning of their patent profits, says Wallace. "They're over there in Virginia as we speak, negotiating more deals," he says. "Every hardware manufacturer's coming out with wireless email capability. The way we see it, as the United States wireless market is approximately 200 million wireless handsets. With all these new products coming out, most will be converted to wireless email. As big as this is with RIM, we see it as just the tip of the iceberg."

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MONEY WITH MUSCLE

New-style donors expect results for their efforts, writes KATHERINE MACKLEM



MAGGIE BRAS DOESN'T act as part of the narrowly defined, top-bottling, plump and proper creature of good intentions. Instead, at 57, she's vivacious and indulgent, with cyclotripping-long hair and an effervescent laugh that bring to mind Goldie Hawn. She lives in a sumptuous designer condo with a floor-to-ceiling view of Toronto's downtown and the lake beyond. In her living room is a baby grand player piano. In her bedroom, along with a silk-creased four-poster bed, sit two elegant polished mahogany dressers. "Watch this," she says, pushing a button, and the top of one of the dressers slowly rises and is large

enough to sit a small table out of the side from. Bras is clearly used to having lots of money. The rest of us are fortunate that she wants to give lots of it away.

Not one of Canada's new-style philanthropists. No crowd of disinterested theoreticians, that "typical of the boomer generation," they want to know what's happening with their donations, and that their money is getting results. These philanthropists are more likely than their predecessors to roll up their sleeves and get involved. And the way they work is changing the way Canada's charitable sector operates, risking it more

efficiently and less accountably. In fact, the business world now includes a new breed of investor in charities, arranging more cross-pollination between the two sectors than ever before.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the tech boom at the end of the '90s was a big factor. Not all the tech heads who pocketed huge sums blew everything on limos, champagne parties and penthouses. Take Bill Young, a Harvard M.B.A. and former diamond ac-

countant who made millions investing in his cousin's tech success. But his late Young, now 90 and living in Toronto, runs a \$10-million charitable foundation that backs businesses with a double mandate: to be financially sustainable and to employ people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Young's group provides not only aid but also business advice, helping create a new kind of organization—a hybrid of for- and non-profit enterprises. Just the name of Young's group illustrates the influence of business. Social Capital Partners. People who know Young describe him and others like him in terms that borrow heavily from business jargon: they're "social entrepreneurs" doing "venture philanthropy."

BRAS CAME into her wealth, sadly, following the 1991 cancer death of her husband, Robert, who led a successful perfumery company, Miami Poudre Cos. Par Ltd. Recently, she established a family foundation that she is endowing with \$3.6 million. She hopes that some of her six now-adult children will someday be active in this new venture. "We have to teach—I mean, we have health and family—I want to eventually bring them on board," she says. But her primary reason for establishing the foundation is simple: "I don't feel the money is ours to keep," Bras says. "It's ours to give back."

While she's already donated \$3.5 million to Toronto's Princess Margaret Hospital for a cancer drug development program (and with her family continues to raise money for that program), the foundation creates a formal structure for her generosity. "I can write a check," Bras says. "But I want to see the difference the cheque is making." The endowment will be invested conservatively, and the money it raises will be donated. The foundation's mission statement spells out the areas Bras wants to support: services for people suffering from cancer and, to a lesser extent, selected projects in the arts and women's issues. It has already received proposals for funding

from a handful of charitable organizations. The foundation also has a board of directors whose role is to research the organizations that request funding and to ensure that money goes to groups that fall within the mission statement's guidelines. In short, to protect Bras—who readily admits she has trouble saying no when asked for help or money—from herself.

To create the foundation, Bras has relied heavily on advice from Marvin Richer, one of Canada's first philanthropy consultants to work for a major bank. Over the course of three months, with coaching from Richer, Bras slowly figured out where she wanted to direct her energy and her money. "It was like being on a psychiatrist's couch," Bras says. "I needed to focus on not helping the world, but on the few areas that mean a lot to me."

Richer is not banking. From 1992 to 2000, she ran the Richard Ivey Foundation, one of Canada's largest family charities, which has handed out almost \$60 million in grants since its creation in 1947. But she was lured to Bank of Montreal with a made-to-measure job: managing director of philan-

BANKS recognize that the large, and growing, assets of the charitable sector stand to become big business

thropy services at Morris Proulx Banking, a division that caters to wealthy customers. "I'd help people find their priorities in philanthropy," Richer says. In addition to her one-on-one work with customers like Bras, helping them administer private foundations or grant-making programs, one of Richer's first moves at the bank was to make its clients better acquainted with Community Foundations of Canada, an association of charitable foundations, allowing customers to put up their own charitable funds. The bank manages the investment (now more than \$25,000), while a local community foundation, with the donor, manages the granting process.

Toronto's Dominion Bank has also stepped into the philanthropy field. Last October, it established a charitable foundation, modelled on a plan that was pioneered in 1992 by Boston-based mutual fund giant Fidelity Investments. With a minimum donation of \$30,000, TD customers can establish an

endowment fund for charitable organizations of their choice. Jo Anne Ryan, architect of TD's foundation, is the head of phil andropic strategies for the bank. "We want to be sure that we're not assuming philanthropy as part of our financial advice," Ryan says. The foundation is one more way that people can give, "and the more options there are, the more money there is flowing to charitable groups," she says. Already, sizable donations have been made through the new fund donors. By year end, almost \$15 million had been raised, Ryan said. That means, this year, close to \$750,000 will flow to charitable groups from donations given in the program's first 26 months, alone.

Why are the banks becoming involved? Lying the large, and growing, assets of the charitable sector, the banks recognize that this new-style philanthropy stands to become big business in Canada. It used to be only Canada's very wealthy families, motivated by guilt and a sense of noble obligation, who established foundations. Prior to the 1960s, there were fewer than 30 private foundations in Canada. Today, there are roughly 1,400, many created in the past 10 years. In 1992, Canada's foundations had \$11.9 billion in assets, up 52 per cent in two years. Banks can expect as much as a trillion dollars to change hands over the next decade as the boomer generation inherits the wealth of its parents. Logically, some of that money will fund philanthropic endeavours.

Richer says Bank of Montreal is involved because it's the right thing to do. "Yes," he brought in new business," she says, but a big part of what she's doing is preparing the way for a sea change in the bank's culture. Philanthropy is not charitable giving, she says. "It is wanting to get at the roots of the problem and have a lasting impact. For that, you have to have money and you have to be involved in an active way," she says. "That is more demanding, and more satisfying."

When Maggie Bras's children were teenagers, she opened her home to some of their troubled friends, allowing them to move in for extended stays and even becoming the legal guardian of one adolescent. Now those kids have become thriving adults who, with their children, are a part of Bras's life. She sees the new foundation in a similar light. "I'd like to have the same kind of hands-on experience," she says. "As the children in my home, I would like to see the results."

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FOR THE LOVE OF MIRÓ

How an Iraqi artist hunted down a looted work by the famed Spanish surrealist

IT'S THE COLOURS that strike you first: the primary reds and blues, the fish of purple and the invertebrate strokes of black. The signature is almost an afterthought, a squiggle on the bottom right of the piece. How, you wonder, could an artwork this big (1.6 m by 1.2 m) and beautiful escape the eyes of Baghdad's war profiteers? Ezzat Pasha, the Iraqi artist who spent more than a year as a prisoner to find it, couldn't stop smiling while displaying *Le Bagneur en Compagne* ("The Bather with Companion," aquatint, number 36 of 50), by renowned Spanish surrealist Joan Miró, when I met him from the Saddam Art Centre days after the fall of Baghdad in April 2003. Interviewed.

"When I came home with it," says Pasha, 38, "I spread it out on the floor of my studio, just like this. Then I stepped back and lit a cigar." It's a Cohenesque night indeed, even more memorable considering the recent history of the work, once a possession of the pre-war Iraqi fine art private collector Pasha, a long-time admirer of Miró, never lost hope of finding it—not from the instant he entered the burning Saddam Art Centre three days after the fall, at the height of the looting frenzy. "The east wing was in flames," he recounts, "but I went in anyway. I had to see what had happened to the Miró. But I couldn't reach the second floor, where it used to hang, because of the smoke."

Pasha's quest began almost immediately at the bottom that popped up and disappeared weekly in the warren of Baghdad's streets. Everything from journalists' equipment to an would emerge in the riotous stalls. "I went to the stalls every Friday," says Pasha, who was careful not to tip off vendors to the price's value—"I put out word I was looking for a painting to decorate my house." The next 15 minutes, heeded through thousands of pieces, saw nothing but a few minor Iraqi pawns.

Then, one Friday late August, he returned to Bab al-Sharq, the south city centre bazaar famous for its trade in stolen goods. "One vendor I'd never seen before told me he



Every Friday, Pasha visited the bazaar and hunted markets to look for the artist.

might have something for me," Pasha recalls. The man led him into an abandoned apartment block whose burnt and looted dwellings served as storage space for the refugees' valuables. "There was very little light, and I could hardly breathe because of the smoke. We went into one apartment

for a piece of paper. It took me to say that about a Miró, but you have to understand the way things work in these stalls: if I hadn't asked to see it, I wouldn't have seen his signature." He ended up paying US\$90. According to Jack Stern, 91, then, Toronto representative of London-based Bloch's auction house, the price would be paid as it went up: between C\$15,000 and C\$20,000 if it went up for auction. But the Baghdadis' history of looting, disappearance and reconstruction could even push the price higher, he adds.

Pasha still laments the loss of so much of Iraq's artistic heritage. "The art scene in Baghdad during the mid-'60s and the mid-'70s was fantastic," he says wistfully. "There were openings, readings, plays and discussions almost every week." But the U.S.-imposed embargo following the first Gulf War put an end to the Renaissance mood. The arts were forgotten, and the Saddam Centre fell into despair. He began finding the Miró, which he plans to return to the Iraqi people once a new arts centre is built, will please people's interest once again. But for the time being, with the future of his country still uncertain, he plans to keep the price safely moved away in his studio. *Le Bagneur de Baghdad* can't be fully liberated just yet. ■

'I KNEW it was the Miró before the vendor unrolled it. The paper gave it away; you don't see that kind in Iraq.'

where the man had a scattered collection of clothes, electrical equipment, books and papers. As soon as I entered, I knew I knew it was the Miró before the vendor unrolled it. The paper gave it away; you don't see that kind of paper in Baghdad."

Anticlimax: the piece had survived without a scratch or torn edge, Pasha proceeded to negotiate a price. "The vendor wanted US\$100. I told him that's much too much

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DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES

Joan Allen and Sigourney Weaver devour juicy roles as renegade moms

JOAN ALLEN AND Sigourney Weaver seem cut from the same renegade cloth. They're both tall, thin-lipped women of a certain age. And both have quick, piercing eyes that suggest a guarded intelligence and a reserve of untapped sexual power. The term "high-strung" comes to mind. In *Glue Like Nitro*, *The Grind* and *The Contender*, Allen has been cast as a divorced woman who defuses a pair of white-hot puny while mated by death. And as the manner-wringing Ripley in the *Alien* movies, Weaver portrayed the role of the strongest of all birth. These two formidable actresses, who have three Oscar nominations

between them, have a lot in common.

Always, Allen delivers a finely calibrated performance, matching up every scene with layers of nuance. But the movie's big surprise is Costner. To give upon this actor his career seemed washed up, and the notion of casting him as a faded baseball hero seemed almost cruel. But the real field of

a piece, have made a specialty of portraying brittle, dark men with one heroism. But they've also starred as wildly irresponsible parents in *The Ice Storm*. And now in their latest work, Allen's *The Upside of Anger* and Weaver's *Imaginary Heroes*, once again they get to loosen up and flirt with immorality as despotic housewives.

If you chart the recent progress of the women—*Glue Like Nitro*, *Murder*, *With Children*, *The Upside*—the American home has been portrayed as a haphazard matriarchy. The wife is angry, scolded and long-suffering, the husband is dull or a jerk. In *The Upside of Anger* and *Imaginary Heroes*, that paradigm is pushed into dramatic overdrive, until it cracks. They sound like they could be the same movie. Both are darkly comic family dramas about acid-spaghetti, upper-middle-class suburban mothers who have decent husbands, a house of well-meaning children and a better education of adolescence than the movies themselves to get totally wasted.

I'm not sure if these films qualify as "dark flicks." Although they offer rich portraits of renegade mothers, which women should relish, both were written and directed by men. And as their heroines become angrier, it's the male characters who serve up all the headbanging redemptive. Also, both scripts betray their mad serious spirit, and the violence, with *Recess*-indies that unspool in unceremonious banality.

The Upside of Anger is the superior film, and is so entirely convincing that its leads can be Regimes. White-director Mike Binder, who created and starred in the HBO series *The Mindy Project*, played Allen's campaign manager in *The Contender*. He wrote *The Upside of Anger* specifically for

the actress, handing her a role that's almost ahead of it in Hollywood—a sexy, middle-aged mom who's not the object of fate.

Allen plays Terry, the mother of four boisterous daughters in a Detroit suburb whose husband sold out to the city, ostensibly to Sweden in the arms of his young Scandinavian assistant. Terry pines for her anger in alcohol, and finds an eager drinking partner in the good natured doctor next door, a retired baseball star-turned-radio DJ named Donny (Kevin Connolly). Donny slides into the role of surrogate husband and father to her daughters (Jenna Christensen, Evan Rachel Wood, Ken Russell and Maria Warr). That trouble arises when Whip (Brendan W. Jackson) is the lead producer at the radio station, lives a wild and sees Terry's

teenaged daughter Andy (Christensen). Always, Allen delivers a finely calibrated performance, matching up every scene with layers of nuance. But the movie's big surprise is Costner. To give upon this actor his career seemed washed up, and the notion of casting him as a faded baseball hero seemed almost cruel. But the real field of

Imaginary Heroes concerns another family that fails to prosper after it suffers a loss. The



Allen delivers a finely calibrated performance, but the movie's big surprise is Costner

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ROGERS
Your World Right Here

(Frankie Fitch), a moody teenager, wakes up one morning to discover that his older brother, a star athlete, has blown his brains out. Their father, Ben (Jeff Daniels), responds by sending him to a Catholic nuptial, and serving full meals at the dead brother's empty place sitting. (He, too, hides behind a mask of stability.) Meanwhile, his wife, Sandy (Wesley), goes on a rant, meeting everyone's red-caucus concerns. She also reconciles a mysterious feud with the woman next door, whose drug-dealer son (Ryan Reynolds), is asserting a dark influence on Tim.

Oh, yes, she also rediscovers pot. For aging Hollywood dames, acting stoned and stupid seems to be the next best thing to a facelift, and Wesley draws a lot of comic mileage from a couple of joints. There's a droll interlude where, flustered by an advance from a geeky checkout boy at the supermarket, she tumbles into a wildly inappropriate song. But the mother-son relationship is at the heart of the story, and Fitch's sensitive performance is cooled with a measured intrigue.

The score bears the hollow imprint of a has-



A FÜHRER'S FINALE

This Hitler may be human, but he remains a psycho

FOR AGING

Hollywood dames, acting stoned and stupid seems to be the next best thing to a facelift

young writer-director, Dan Harmon, who wrote it at the tender age of 22—impressing director Judd Apatow to push that he asked Harmon to write the blockbuster *Scrubs* (2005). Yet, despite first performance and edgy material, *Scrubs* seems a low blow by half. Harmon's career matures away at the edges, as if he can't see beyond Tim's peripatetic nose. *Scrubs* struggles with a half-crown release the deranged child. And as the end of *Scrubs* smashes his fleshed-out drama with an over-the-top plot, punctuated by the implausible thud of a happy ending. It's sad, really. You can see the ragged stain where a young filmmaker has learned to spin personal experience into something synthetic.

Harmon recently on scripted *Superman Returns* and has been writing a year's worth of *Ultimate X-Men* comic books. Tales of rail-thin, hairy heroes. At this rate he'll never have to write another movie about mean enemies and misadventures.

BREAKING A HISTORIC taboo, *Downfall* is the first major German movie to portray Hitler as a man, not a monster, and has been hugely controversial in Germany, where almost five million people have flocked to see it. Some German critics have warned that by showing a vulnerable Hitler who was kind to his dog and his secretary, the film would kindle neo-Nazi sympathies. From a North American viewpoint, it's hard to say when evil *Downfall*'s flesh-and-blood Hitler might unleash in the brains of German psyche. And, as played by Bruno Ganz (*Wings of Desire*), in a scrupulously researched impersonation, this is the most mesmerizing, and vulnerable, Hitler we've ever seen. But he still comes across as a raving psychopath who could seem sympathetic only to like-minded maniacs.

The movie itself, which charts the final 12 days in the Berlin bunker leading up to Hitler's suicide, is a monumental epic. Directed by Oliver Hirschbiegel, it's based on two books—*Twilight* by Peter Longerich's *Bunker and Death* and *The Final Days*, the memoir by Hitler's secretary Traudl Junge. And aside from Hitler, the 2½-hour saga depicts another two dozen Nazi luminaries—a list who that includes Joseph Goebbels, Heinrich Himmler, Albert Speer and Eva Braun. It's all quite riveting. But these

Guns, with Julianne Möllers as Brauns, is mesmerizing, but his Adolf is still repellent.

chambers have become so overcrowded, and fetid, over the years, it's still a far less wrenching *Modern Times* gallery scene to life. No matter how well acted or compelling or authentic, the swaying spectacle of *Downfall* elicits a ghastly voyeurism.

Even more hard-core than Hitler is the rampaging Goebbels (Ulrich Matthes) and his poetic wife, Magda (Corinna Harfouch). "The German people owe their lives," utters Goebbels, "and now their little deaths are being cut." In the most chilling scene, Magda, immersed with a strand of pearls, sits down to a game of solitaire after dragging their six children and ensuing cyanide capsules between their teeth as they sleep.

Not all the Nazis in *Downfall* are nasty. The passively cheerful Eva Braun seems acutely deluded. And the many upfalls through the chaos of Hitler's secretary, (Astrid Maria Lenz), who appears simply to have fallen in with the wrong crowd. Being outlived with these despicable characters in the blue-grey does of the bunker recalls the sublime claustrophobia of *Das Boot*. You find yourself either rooting for them or rooting in their demise. Either way, it's disturbing entertainment. **D**



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Over to You | BY MARY POWLES



LESSON FROM CASABLANCA

In Morocco, I worked for a press that had new freedoms—and old fears

IT WAS MY FIRST day of work at *Le Journal Hebdomadaire*, an independent French-language weekly magazine published in Casablanca. I'd been in the bustling city just a few days, so I decided to walk to the office. Elderly veiled women, their palms stretched toward me with a blessing, called out in Arabic. I passed the high concrete walls of the medina—the ancient, walled city in the centre of a new sprawling urban jangle—and looked deeply at the rich spices and herbs being sold inside. Finally, I reached a part of town where the buildings, stained from decades of dust storms, were an intimidating

as my administrative office block.

I was nervous. I was about to start a nine-month-long internship made possible by a fellowship from Ottawa's International Development Research Centre. Here, I was told, could a novice Canadian journalist contribute to one of the most daring print media in the Arab World?

Le Journal Hebdomadaire (the weekly paper), which opened in 1999, is recognized with any political party or ideology. It challenges Morocco's limits on free speech through tough news reporting of government corruption and abuse of political power. The publisher and managing editor have been fired numerous times, convicted of defamation and sentenced to several months in prison (and fined up to \$100,000). Advertisers have boycotted the weekly, and journalists are often paid late. In 2003, the publisher was honoured with an international Press Freedom Award for his "commitment to independent news coverage and exposed government interference."

All this in a nation, in the shadow of Moroccan's 45-year-old king, Mohammed VI, who serves as political leader, Commander of the Faithful, and president of Rabat's court of appeal. He presided over democratic reforms. One result: In May 2009, the press code was liberalized—if it can be described as such. Journalists can still be sentenced to up to five years of imprisonment for offences such as defaming the monarchy or Islam. The code is open to broad interpretation, as Ali Lamlouche, the former editor

in chief of the weekly *Dawn*, found out when he published comments by an opponent of the monarchy and a satirical cartoon concerning the performance of a royal budget for the royal household. In 2003, Lamlouche found guilty of "insulting the person of the King," writing other things, and sentenced to three years in prison, fined 20,000 dirhams (about C\$3,000) and had his paper banned. Not surprisingly, such incidents create an atmosphere of



fear and uncertainty, often causing journalists to censor themselves. When I arrived at the office, I climbed the stairs to the first floor where, down a dark corridor, I found an unlit wooden door and a single security doorbell. The managing editor, a frequent dweller from his lips, greeted me. After showing me to my desk, he gave me a copy of that week's issue, the headline "Faction Islamiste" ("Faction Islamiste") gleaming in orange block letters from the cover.

"Has *Le Journal* ever been threatened by Islamism?" I asked, surprising myself with my first question for my new boss.

"Not really," he replied, "we have more women from the hangouts. But the adventure continues."

As the months passed, my job of tirelessly contributing to the advancement of press freedom was overlaid by the challenges of reporting in a foreign country. Still, I managed to write articles about Casablanca's female taxi drivers, a Moroccan playwright and an international media conference. I also wrote about a murder in Marrakech, and domestic terrorism in the airport. Journalism is not a career, it's a lifestyle. I was not content, I was not satisfied. In the wider world, it was a whole new world. The chief editors in Beirut, Beirut were murdered, President George W. Bush was re-elected, Israel attacked and the South-east Asian tsunami hit. Seeing these events

through the eyes of my Muslim Arab colleagues helped me to understand how even the differences are between Arab and Western perceptions of the world. In the case of the tsunami, for example, though a weekly newspaper that's the voice of one of the Islamic opposition parties, said the disaster was divine retribution on countries that allowed unauthorised. The article sparked heated debate throughout the country and outrage

from the independent press. An editorial by *Le Journal's* publisher described the piece as "profoundly worrying" and condemned what he called "an attitude of business." As I learned from working at *Le Journal*, press freedom in Morocco is a fragile, word beyond, deadline after deadline, sometimes with severe consequences. I have great respect for those courageous Moroccan journalists who know that only through press freedom can the powers be given a voice, and injustice and corruption be exposed.

Mary Powles, 36, is back at Montreal, looking forward to teaching students in Canada. To connect: mary@casablancanews.com

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BACKTALK

John Intini's Sentences 62 | Bestsellers List 62 | Lianne George on Pop Culture 63



Don't be fooled by their looks, they're great con artists

Robbin (left) and Chernick share more than a passion for making movies

LAST YEAR, actors JAMES CHERNICK and LIANNE GEORGE (left) lived together in a dingy L.A. hotel with unbeknownst to them—a dead cat rotting under the flooring below their bedrooms. Despite the wretched smell permeating their lives, they got along great. “We are extremely compatible,” says Robbin, 24. “We live at the same level of clean and tidy and have a brotherly similar upbringing. If we left a mess somewhere in the house, our mothers left the mess on our pillow—Robbin in Winnipeg, and me in Toronto.”

The two rising Canadian stars met while filming 7 Times Lucky (released this week) during a typically lighd Winnipeg winter. They play small time criminals who become protégés of a veteran con man, played by Hollywood actor Kevin Pollak. “Kevin gets a lot of offers of independent crane films since *Dolls of Suspense*,” says Chernick, 31. “And he says flat out to everyone that all of the scripts are garbage. This one came across his desk and it was so terrific he didn’t care where it was shooting...clearly.” SIOBHAN O’NEIL

“Kevin usually plays a cowboy and rodeo stuntman-type character. So playing a street hustler was a stretch. My character was a guy who was a bit of a con artist.” —Lianne George, director of 7 Times Lucky

BUZZ LIST

7 TIMES LUCKY
John Intini's Sentences 62 | Bestsellers List 62 | Lianne George on Pop Culture 63

1 *7 Times Lucky* by John Intini
A young man and woman meet in a small town in Manitoba. The story is told in a series of chapters, each focusing on a different character. The book is a mix of humor and tragedy, and it's a great read for anyone who likes a good story.

2 *The Last Days of Pompeii* by H. D. Noyes
A historical novel about the city of Pompeii. The story is told in a series of chapters, each focusing on a different character. The book is a mix of humor and tragedy, and it's a great read for anyone who likes a good story.

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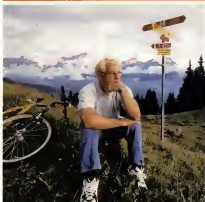
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Jacques Villeneuve finishes John Intini's sentences

Jacques Villeneuve is a computer geek. In fact, during one online role-playing session, the Formula One racer played 26 1/2-night hours of Dungeons & Dragons. It's a diversion from the track for the 33-year-old, who is also a consultant on off-road racing films about his late race-car-driving father, Gilles. The native of St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que., nine barrels Villeneuve's dad, Switzerland, recently finished *McLaren's* Associate Editor John Intini's sentences.

MY CARD GAME OF CHOICE... I debate. It's a complicated French game. But it's not a gamble. I prefer building small pyramids or castles with cards.

MY DEATHLY ALLERGY... To spicy foods. Just one bite and I start sweating and

can barely breathe. THE BEST GIFT I'VE EVER RECEIVED... Was a motorcycle like from my mother when I was 18.

THE FIRST THING I DO WHEN I WAKE UP IS... go to the bed.

MY FAVOURITE FICTIONAL CHARACTER IS... *anybody* in driving around who slaps daggers and saves the princess MY MUM... had to drive me to the track when I first started racing because I was too young to drive.

TO LIVE YOUR DREAM LIFE... nothing. What would I do with my talent? I'd sell my cars after I'm gone? Once I'm dead, I couldn't care less.

FOR MORE JOHN INTINI'S SENTENCES? VISIT WWW.MCCLAREN.CA/PEOPLE



STAYING IN THE KNOW... I'm up to the hilt on the latest of the books on the trip to Italy.

A TRIP TO... to Geneva. I've met some of the best people there. I was a lovely married man.

Books | Terrorism in the name of America

On the afternoon of Dec. 7, 1976, a fire broke out at the Portsmouth shipyard in Portsmouth, part of an ambitious attempt to destroy—on behalf of the American Revolution—both the vessel *Mermaid* and the city. The fire was set by James Arthur, the subject of the biography, Jessica Warner's fine study of a man she calls "the first modern terrorist." Arthur, a Scots-Irish colonial backed by the U.S. Congress's enemy to Paris, was ruthless and impetuous in equal measure. He was prepared to see the Portsmouth shipyard razed in the revolutionary fires he planned to set to obliterate the Tories, but he started his own fire too early—hundreds of workers still on the job were able to contain the blaze. Attempts over the next few weeks to burn down the shipyard failed, but he did spark panic in British ships, and in another modern touch, officials began redistributing the papers, suspecting that someone had captured American privates.



THE MODERN JACQUES ARTHUR: THE FIRST MODERN TERRORIST
By Jessica Warner
\$32.95

Best Sellers

Fiction

1. *THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN* (Lindsey Faye)
2. *THE 100* (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar)
3. *THE 100* (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar)
4. *THE 100* (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar)
5. *THE 100* (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar)
6. *THE 100* (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar)
7. *THE 100* (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar)
8. *THE 100* (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar)
9. *THE 100* (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar)
10. *THE 100* (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar)

Non-fiction

1. *THE 100* (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar)
2. *THE 100* (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar)
3. *THE 100* (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar)
4. *THE 100* (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar)
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Lianne George | ON POP CULTURE



Still not one of the finer arts

Now that BS is like a second language, few of us are shocked, or even bothered, by it

A FEW WEEKS AGO, I found myself at Blockbuster, renting *Toy*—the wobbly-paced 2004 adaptation of *Flower*, starring Brad Pitt's golden locks. True to expectation, nearly three hours of Pitt looking saucer in a heeplaplaner are indeed too much. So I left the DVD to languish, partially watched, on my coffee table for a week. Having seen Blockbuster's "No More Late Fees" TV advertisement during its opening and explaining why I figured the store was in no hurry to get it back. Of course, upon dropping it off, I found a fee had been charged to my account. Not a "late fee," but a less penetrating "returning late" fee of \$1.75.

In the past, I've argued against Blockbuster, the State of New Jersey is calling the company "No More Late Fees" advertising campaign "fraudulent" and "deceptive." But for most consumers, accustomed to excessive rebelling in commercial messaging, it comes as no surprise. Laura Perry, the *Rolling Stone* author of an upcoming book, *The Cult of the Blockbuster*, suggests that North Americans have

as a bar knows he's not telling the truth, the bullshitter doesn't care whether he is or not. Rather, it's something that is targeted to the truth—messaging that is targeted to provide a more pleasing interpretation of the truth, designed to serve the teller only. "We live in an era of unmoderated bullshit production," says Perry. With media being so pervasive, BS now permeates just about every aspect of our lives. Though we don't throw it, she says, "North Americans have surpassed it. We've made it faster, stronger, more ubiquitous." In fact, one could argue that BS has become our unofficial second language. It's in the public relations driven spin of some news stories and in the impenetrable sub-clauses of our mortgage agreements. ("I think the borrowing party is where they keep the consequences," Perry says.) BS is systemic, virtually impossible to maneuver around—even when we sit eating from a take-away. Most of us just accept and expect it, but have learned to generate it pretty well ourselves.

Which is why most people will not complain about paying a returning fee on a DVD. In fact, Blockbuster's (it's not a charge but a fee) is a charge that has fees. That is, if we get angry every time we come up against a load of BS, we'd only drive ourselves insane, not to mention those around us. Says Perry, "I can run a party at about five minutes." ■

To comment
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JOHN BY ANY OTHER NAME

Poor Jean Charest. He just isn't pure laine enough for some Quebecers.

DALTON MCGILINTY isn't overly popular in Ontario these days. But I've never heard anyone call him an agent of foreign interests. When Glen Clark and then Orlan Doolittle were running British Columbia, a lot of people said a lot of nasty things about them, but they were attacked for these policies, not asked to flush their credentials as true British Columbians.

So it is depressing to have to announce, as Jean Charest plummeted to new depths in the public opinion polls, that some people have decided he's just not a Quebecer.

They don't quite say it that bluntly, but a few commentators are laying on the innuendo with a trowel. "A strange government which is more and more foreign to us," the *Montreal Star* wrote. On Gérard Larocque wrote in *Le Devoir* in February 1999: "left no doubt that by 'foreign,' he means English."

Charest has more problems than his back than those foreign and too innocent them, but the biggest is the location of an ambitious new ranching hospital for the Université de Montréal. Some people mean it is a bad yard in the tiny enclave of Outremont. Others mean it is more centrally located, on a crowded street corner in the downtown east side. The passion that debate has aroused is incomprehensible to outsiders, but it's paralyzed the Charest government.

Along comes Larocque to ask which "linguistic territories" the Outremont location would serve. "The same that provided our municipal debt-struggles last year?" (The debt struggles resulted in mostly English-suburbs opening out of a newly created Montreal municipality.) "Or over a more recent strategy to extend 100 per cent public financing to Jewish schools?"

No ho. The guy Charest, he's in way in money and ethnic votes. "It's a safe bet that the Charest government won't hesitate to out-evile more pharisees," Larocque snarled dully.

But you know, it's a funny thing, Charest isn't the only advocate of the Outremont location. Another is Lucien Boivin. And



while there may actually be people who believe the liberalism of the 1995 referendum has worked his way into the back pocket of the Anglos, none is dumb enough to see that theory in public.

So why Charest? Finally, a *Local University* (film and) named Paul Warren has had the nerve to suggest what, to Warren anyway, is "the real reason" for Charest's unpopularity: he's not really a Quebecer.

"Charest, despite his perfectly Québécois name, is foreign to Quebec's culture," Warren wrote in an opinion piece in *Le Press*, under the helpful if brutal title "Jean Charest Expresses Himself Poorly."

"Watch him talk. He searches for words and when he finds one it's not the right one. When he can't find one he clings to vague terms ('it's important,' 'it's very important'). He makes grammatical errors."

There's more. Why more? I'll spare you. But you know, it's a funny thing, French

is my second language, but I can tell you with some confidence that prominent figures who search for words, cling to vague terms and make grammatical errors have not haphazardly been hired to find in Québec politics. (Or anywhere else.) Charest was absolutely done a pretty good job of describing the difficulties Paul Martin, Stockwell Day, Ralph Klein and Mel Lastman have in English.)

There were no end of Québécois cabinet ministers whose command of French would have made Malin's head explode, but it can find no studies by Paul Warren compellingly long that "Guy Charest expresses himself badly" or "Jean Charest expresses himself badly."

Of course, Charest's problem isn't his shaky public image. It's that he believes in Canada. His Irish-brotherly feelings after the occasional anglophobe's handy shot with which to sock him. Charest had the misfortune of being baptized John James Charest. Every once in a while somebody discovers this and decides he must surely be a lackey of the Anglo rulers. That the latest guy to make this dubious leap is named "Paul Warren" is especially painful. Over-compensating, are we?

I want to make something perfectly clear. Most Quebecers who dispute that Charest's government aren't anglophobes. Charest has given the province's millions too many legitimate reasons to hold him in disdain. When 79 per cent of Quebecans disapprove of his government, it's because there's a lot to disapprove of.

But the xenophobia being levelled at a guy who's not even, uh, *even*, leaves a better question for genuine outsiders who devote years of good faith to making themselves acceptable in the province of Quebec: If Jean Charest can't catch a break in Quebec, what hope do Paul Martin, Stephen Harper or Jack Layton have?

to comment: backpage@torstar.com or send Paul Wells a mailing, "Wells Wells" at www.mcgillinty.com/Quebecville

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